

GREAT EVENTS

FROM

LITTLE CAUSES.

OR, A

SELECTION

OF

INTERESTING and ENTERTAINING STORIES,

DRAWN FROM THE

HISTORIES of different NATIONS.

WHEREIN

Certain CIRCUMSTANCES, seemingly inconsiderable,
are discovered to have been apparently productive
of very EXTRAORDINARY INCIDENTS.

Translated from the French of Monsieur A. RICHER,
by whom it was dedicated, by Permission, to her most
serene Highness the late Duchess of ORLEANS.

L O N D O N :

Printed for F. NEWBERRY, in Pater-noster Row.

M DCC LXVII.

GRAND EVENTS

TO
LITTLE CAUSES
Her most SERENE HIGHNESS

THE LATE
DUCHESS of ORLEANS



MADAM
T H O S E which have been
transmitted to you from your
ancestors, exact you to real grandeur;
they even procure to you a greater
share of veneration than you derive
from your august descent; they supply
the vacant space which exists between
Princes and other men: You are the
patrons of learning, arts and sciences,
and graciously receive the homage of
those who promote and cultivate them.
Design, Madam, to accept of that which
I presume to offer to your most serene
Highness. A 2

T O

Her most SERENE HIGHNESS

T H E L A T E

DUCHESS of ORLEANS.

MADAM,

THOSE virtues which have been transmitted to you from your ancestors, exalt you to real grandeur; they even procure to you a greater share of veneration than you derive from your august descent; they supply the vacant space which exists between Princes and other men: You are the patroness of learning, arts and sciences, and graciously receive the homage of those who promote and cultivate them. Deign, Madam, to accept of that which I presume to offer to your most serene

iv. DEDICATION.

Highness, and permit me to adorn my work with your august name, which, from the respect it impresses on the public, will occasion them the more readily to excuse them the inferiority of my talents.

I am,

with the most profound respect,

MADAM,

Your Highness's

Most humble Servant,

A. RICHER.

ADVERTISEMENT.

BEING curious to know the springs which set the world in motion, and to learn the causes from whence those events which succeed each other with such rapidity are produced, I have to that end perused the writings of historians with the utmost attention; That fatal fruit which has proved the source of those dreadful evils which have overwhelmed the whole race of mankind, was the first object that presented itself to my view; and the chronological lists of the revolutions that have happened from the formation of Adam to the present time, serve only as so many monuments to display the weakness and degeneracy of men.

The slightest motives excite them to the most hazardous undertakings, and induce them to exert their utmost efforts. The most trivial circumstances occasion the subversion of thrones, overturn empires and erect new ones in their stead. In a word, the most important events frequently come to pass from very inconsiderable causes.

This work contains some examples of this truth. It would be an immense labour, were I inclined to enumerate them all. If it be agreeable to the public, it will be no difficult task for me to add to the number here inserted; if not, there must already be too many of them.

vi ADVERTISEMENT.

I shall perhaps be thought blameable in having ranked love amongst the number of lesser causes: but I intreat the reader, before he condemns me, to have a due regard to those circumstances which have paved the way to the event.

Though I have consulted only the best authors, I have nevertheless reason to apprehend I may have been misled through the weakness of my talents, and request some degree of indulgence for my work, provided it's faults are not too numerous.

As my design is to amuse, and not to teach history, I thought it unnecessary to point out the dates: besides, every part of history has been chronologically treated of, which, being more entertaining and exact than the ancients, may instruct without proving tedious.

P R E-

P R E F A C E.

HISTORY is a picture which unites in the same point of view both times and climates. Through the medium of different manners, customs, and laws, we may perceive the same characters, passions, foibles, and the same men.

Chaos had hardly yet assumed a regular form, or man scarcely emerged from non-existence, ere vice takes possession of his heart. Adam proves a rebel: his sons are incensed at each other, and drench the earth with their blood. The flood is sent without effect to destroy mankind, and purge the world: a single family floats upon the waters, their vices accompany it, and are preserved inseparably with them. The offspring of Noah is alike corrupt with that of Adam. They part from each other, form different people and empires, wherein interest, ambition, and vanity, sow trouble and discord: men are filled with rage against men, tearing each other in pieces; and nation are led to battle against nation: they even compel the earth to furnish

nish them with the iron she has concealed in her bowels; affix the pompous titles of victories and triumphs to their slaughters, and have the presumption to adorn their brows with laurels won with blood. Empires are overthrown, revolutions succeed each other, and the miseries of mankind appear in a distinguished manner from age to age. Those of the time past denote the present, and ours in like manner discover those of posterity.

History however affords us a prospect of some virtues. Nature, as a compensation to the human race, has sometimes presented them with such worthy men as have repaired the ravages made by vice. Their intentions being constantly pure, their actions are real benefits. Their example draws some to goodness, and stops others in their career, when on the point of transgressing. In a word, wisdom causes good to issue from those things which vice produces evil from, and that frequently from the most minute circumstances.

P R E F A C E

BY THE

TRANSLATOR,

THOSE who have not had an opportunity of, or a suitable education for, reading the many voluminous works in different languages from whence the several narrations contained in this book are selected, will undoubtedly meet with much entertainment and instruction in the perusal of the following pages; and even those gentlemen who have had the advantage of a learned education and extensive reading, will, it is presumed, be pleased with having a great number of interesting events, dispersed in a variety of books, brought into one portable volume for their re-perusal, related in a pleasing manner, and considered in a new light.

The translator, however, thinks it incumbent on him to observe, that, as strict impartiality is seldom or ever to be met with in historians of any age or country, even when treating only of the affairs of their own nation, the reader will be less surprized, when informed, that Monsieur Richer,

* P R E F A C E.

Richer, the French compiler of this work, in relating some events from English history, especially those wherein France is any way connected or interested in the transaction, has shewn himself greatly prejudiced in favour of his own nation; and has introduced some passages, respecting this kingdom, not to be met with in any of our historians.

For which reason whatever he has related concerning the affairs of England must be read with caution. This hint is the more necessary, as the translator did not consider himself justifiable in taking the liberty of altering any of those passages which were delivered in the original as historical facts, though some of them are misrepresented; and especially as such readers as are perfectly acquainted with the history of England, will easily discover the partiality of the French author; and those who are not, will be induced to make themselves masters of it, in order to prevent any imposition of this kind, either from foreigners or partial writers of their own country.

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1892
JAN 10
1892

LETTERS

My dear Mr. [illegible]
I have just received your letter of the 10th inst. and am
glad to hear that you are well. I am also well and hope
this finds you the same. I have not much news to write
at present. I am still in the same place and doing the
same work. I hope to hear from you again soon.
Yours truly,
[illegible]



C O N T E N T S.

SEMIRAMIS taking advantage of a frolic of her husband Ninus, king of Assyria, causes him to be put to death, and possesses herself of the sovereign power. page 1.

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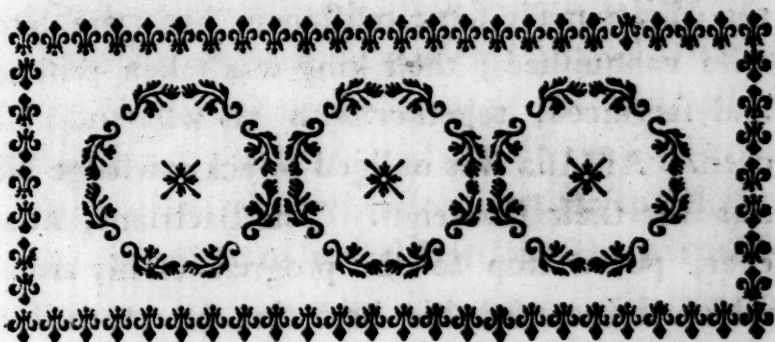
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p. 226.



SEMIRAMIS *taking advantage of a frolic of her husband NINUS, king of Assyria, causes him to be put to death, and possesses herself of the sovereign power.*

NINUS, king of Assyria, thinking the extent of his dominions confined within too narrow limits, assembled together the most robust young men in his kingdom in order to make conquests: for this purpose he, had them taught to ride the great horse, and to handle their arms, and enured them to fatigues. When he judged them capable of fighting and conquering, he led them against the Babylonians,

B

whom

whom he subdued. Armenia was conquered ; the Medes made some resistance, but were likewise vanquished ; their king was taken prisoner and sacrificed, together with his wife and children. All Asia was obliged to acknowledge Ninus for their sovereign. The Bactrians, however, put a stop to the progress of his arms ; which so incensed this hero that he returned to his kingdom, raised fresh troops, and falling upon the Bactrians, who opposed him, obliged them to shut themselves up within the walls of Bactra. The city being well fortified, both by art and nature, kept up the courage of the Bactrians, and their confidence held the place of security. They rejected the promises of Ninus, and braved his menaces. This conqueror made incredible efforts ; glory, and the desire of revenge, stimulated both him and his troops. But, at length, his forces diminished, his battalions grew thin, his soldiers worn out with fatigue were no longer able to fight ; Ninus saw this with concern, and was at last under the disagreeable necessity of sacrificing his glory and revenge to the preservation of his army ; and therefore with great reluctance he raised the siege. The colours were now struck, the baggage was packed up, and Ninus and his men cast a look, mixed with rage and sorrow, on Bactra ; like lions, excited

cited by courage, but restrained by fatigue. At this instant a messenger came to inform the king that the city was taken, and that he was indebted for this conquest to the courage and conduct of a woman.

His joy on this occasion was proportioned to the greatness of the action, and he earnestly desired to see her who had done such honour to her country and her sex; saying, that he would in person confer on her the recompence due to her services. Semiramis was introduced to him; when Ninus was still more astonished at her beauty than he had been before at her valour. He remained some time in silent admiration. Not content with feasting his eyes on her charms, his heart, which glory alone had hitherto animated, became now wholly enflamed with love, and he himself was vanquished by her who had just conquered his enemies. In fine, he offered her both his crown and heart, and trembled lest she should refuse them. Semiramis, who was influenced by ambition, accepted the offer of his heart for the sake of his crown.

This heroine was the fruit of an unlawful amour, and was exposed or deserted as soon as born; when being found by some shepherds they carried her to the house of the person who had the principal care of the king's flocks. As she

grew up, she surpassed in wit and beauty most of her sex. The governor of Syria surveying one day the flocks of Ninus, saw her; and being struck with the graces and beauty of her person, demanded her in marriage, and obtained her. He being obliged presently after to accompany the king in the war against the Bactrians, and not chusing to be parted from his wife, he took her with him. Semiramis examining the walls of Bactra, observed that the besieged neglected the fortified places to cover those that were the most defenceless, because the Assyrians applied their efforts towards the latter. In consequence of which observation, she put herself at the head of some brave troops, scaled the walls, and entered the city by a place which was left unguarded, threw the besieged into consternation, and opened the gates to the Assyrian army; and by this action merited the love and admiration of Ninus.

The king, quite enamoured with his new spouse, returned to his dominions, and made it his sole study to procure her every gratification he had the power to bestow. He resolved to give himself the pleasure of seeing all Asia subject to the will of her who had possession of his heart; and, in consequence of this resolution, gave her absolute authority for the space of one day, and
ordered

ordered his subjects to execute all the commands of Semiramis. A wise and prudent woman would, no doubt, have made use of this frolick, to tell Ninus of his faults ; but she consulted only her ambition and her cruelty ; for as soon as Ninus had put this power into her hands, she made use of it by causing him to be assassinated. The traitors whom she employed for this purpose reported, that the king had given up the reins of the empire to his spouse, because he found his end approaching. The people, who are commonly ignorant of the transactions of a court, believed what was told them, and readily acknowledged Semiramis as their sovereign. This haughty ambitious woman not content with her newly-acquired power, became jealous of the glory which Ninus had gained by his conquests, by the construction of Nineveh, and other public edifices ; and in order to attract the notice of the world, and the admiration of posterity, she built the superb city of Babylon, to hasten the construction of which she employed two millions of men. She put herself at the head of a formidable army, and by her victories extended the Assyrian empire, levelled mountains, turned the course of rivers, built cities, and made those lands fruitful that appeared destined for sterility.

Semiramis, for fear of losing her power, would not marry again: but the throne did not exempt her from the vices of human nature: she chose for her pleasures the finest men of her army, and to spare her blushes afterwards, she made them pay for her favours with their lives.

She was resolved to make the conquest of India; but this expedition did not succeed; her army was cut in pieces, and she was wounded in the action. Her son Ninias, whom she had by Ninus, took advantage of this defeat, and caused her to be privately put to death; and gave out that she was taken up into heaven. She was sixty-two years of age at the time of her death. The Assyrians paid adoration to her as a divinity, after her decease. Some historians relate, that she was guilty of incest with her own son Ninias.



The



*The love of HELEN for PARIS, was
the cause of the siege and destruction of
Troy.*

HELLEN, the daughter of Tindarus, king of Sparta, was esteemed such a miracle of beauty, that all the kings of Greece aspired to the happiness of marrying her ; for which purpose they all repaired to Sparta. Tindarus was pleased with seeing so many monarchs honour his daughter with their love ; but, upon reflexion, this circumstance gave him much uneasiness : he concluded that those to whom he should refuse his consent to espouse her, would, out of revenge, join together and effect his ruin. His perplexity daily increasing, he applied for advice to Ulysses king of Ithaca, who was admired throughout all Greece for his wisdom. Ulysses gave him very prudent advice, and he followed it ; this was to call together his daughter's suitors, and propose to them, that they should agree upon oath to rest satisfied with the choice she should make, and all unite together to defend the happy lover against whoever might

endeavour to deprive him of her. Helen being struck with the person of Menelaus, the brother of Agamemnon, king of Mycena, gave him the preference; and during three years they were mutually happy. At the expiration of this time, Alexander Paris, second son of Priam king of Troy, finding that the kingdom would descend to Hector his elder brother, resolved to seek an establishment elsewhere. He travelled into Peloponnesus, and arrived at Sparta, where he saw Helen, and felt that pleasure which the sight of a fine woman occasions. The image of this charming princess made an impression on his heart, and he sought an opportunity of seeing her again, and speaking to her. In former times queens had not such a multitude of attendants as in these our days. Paris found means of declaring his passion to Helen. He was young, handsome, and of engaging address. Her heart being susceptible of tender impressions, she returned his love. They were inspired with the same tender regard for each other, and ardently wished to be united for ever. Helen, for the sake of her lover, quitted the throne, and went with him to Troy, where Priam was weak enough to receive her. Menelaus, thus deprived of a wife whom he adored, was greatly afflicted; and being irritated against the ravisher, alarmed all Greece with

with his complaints. The different kings, mindful of their oath, hastened to fulfil it. Agamemnon, the two Ajaxes, Achilles, Philoctetes, &c. vowed the destruction of Troy, and accordingly laid siege to it.

Priam, having enjoyed a long and peaceable reign, still lived in happy tranquility amidst a numerous family. The beautiful and virtuous Andromache employed her whole time in contributing to the happiness of Hector her husband. Commerce was in a flourishing state, and the citizens were easy in their circumstances. The husbandman saw with pleasure his fruits and grain ripen, and pleased himself with agreeable hopes of reaping the profit of his labour. In short, that harmony which is so necessary to the well-being of all societies, reigned in Troy. An army of Greeks appeared, and all was trouble and confusion. They were struck with a panic; the inhabitants of the country hastened into the city, the gates of which were immediately shut. The valiant Hector flew to the walls; his example raised their drooping spirits; they followed, they imitated him, and resisted for ten years the efforts of the Greeks. At length Hector was slain; the Trojans were dismayed, and made no farther resistance; upon which the Greeks entered the city, and sacrificed to their fury all they

met with. Soldiers, citizens, princes, princesses, all fell by the sword of the conquerors. Priam was killed at the foot of the altar. The four corners of the city were set on fire, and it was immediately reduced to ashes. Menelaus seeing Helen again, his love for her rekindled ; he forgot her perfidy, and took her back with him to Sparta.



Several young Romans, being heated with wine, began to discourse about their wives. This conversation occasioned the rape of LUCRETIA, which was the cause of the expulsion of the kings from Rome, and the change of the monarchy into a Republic.

TARQUIN the Proud, seventh king of Rome, was ambitious, cruel, and politic. Royalty alone was not sufficient to satisfy his ambitious disposition. He aimed at despotism ; to accomplish which he caused many senators to be put to death, whom he thought capable of opposing his projects, and thereby so intimidated others,

others, that instead of opposing him they kept themselves concealed in their own houses. Upon the ruins of the laws, this tyrant erected a cruel sort of power, which he strengthened by his constant complaisance to the soldiery; towards whom he was mild, affable, and generous. He frequently allowed them the whole plunder of the cities he had taken from the enemy. He led them from one expedition to another, fearing lest the senators and principal Plebeians should open their eyes so as they might perceive his designs. At length, after having subdued many of the neighbouring people, he attacked the Rutuli, drove them within the walls of Ardea their city, and laid siege to it; but perceiving that it would cost him too many men to take it by assault, he changed the siege into a blockade. As the army had nothing now to do, but to hinder provisions from being brought into the place, strict discipline was not kept up by the Romans. The officers mutually regaled each other. Sextus Tarquinius, the king's son, gave an entertainment to several of the young officers, of which number was Collatinus, the husband of Lucretia, and governor of Collatia, a little city of Italy. During this repast, the conversation turned upon their wives. Each willing to do honour to his own choice, exaggerated the beauty and virtues

of his own spouse. It is probable, however, at that time they had no great opinion of the sagacity of the ladies, since it was proposed to try the experiment whether these females deserved the commendations given them. The glass having circulated briskly about, they begin to think in earnest of what was at first proposed only in pleasantry ; and accordingly they mounted their horses, and posted away to Rome, in order to surprise their wives, and see how they supported their absence. They found them in general in the midst of gaiety and pleasures, but much embarrassed at the unexpected visit of their husbands, which was a tacit acknowledgment of their being in fault. They at last went to Collatia, to the house of Collatinus, where, though the night was far advanced, they found Lucretia surrounded by her female servants, employed in spinning. This virtuous lady was overjoyed at the sight of her husband, and bestowed on him those sincere and natural caresses which virtuous love inspires. Her beauty, the majesty, as well as modesty, of her air and demeanor, charmed the companions of Collatinus ; and they were unanimous in their commendations of her ; but Tarquinius Sextus could not confine himself to mere expressions of his admiration ; he was young, lively, and impetuous ; love got possession of him ; the
oftener

oftener he ſaw her, the more were his criminal deſires enflamed. As duty now recalled him and his aſſociates to the army, he departed with them, but with a reſolution of returning as ſoon as poſſible to gratify his brutal paſſion ; which was ſo violent that military exerciſes could not extinguiſh it. He daily ſought ſome pretext for getting away from the camp and the army. At length impatience got the better of him ; he ran, he flew to Collatia, and pretended he had ſome commiſſion to execute there by order of the king his father. He went to lodge at Collatinus's houſe. Lucretia received him with that complacency and ſecurity which always accompany virtue ; and after ſupping with her, he was conducted to the apartment prepared for him. The nearer Sextus was to the object of his deſires, the more were his paſſions enflamed. The violation of the laws of hoſpitality, the outrage he had reſolved to commit againſt virtue, touched him not with remorse. He aroſe from his bed, took a poignard which he had had the barbarous precaution to bring with him, and ruſhed into Lucretia's apartment. She awoke ; but what was her ſurpriſe, when Sextus, ſeizing her in his arms, made her feel the poignard, ſaying at the ſame time, “ If you cry out, or make
 “ any reſiſtance, you ſhall die that moment.
 “ Nor

“ Nor will I content myself with taking away
 “ your life ; I will fix an eternal stain on your
 “ memory, by killing one of your slaves, and
 “ laying him by your side, and then publishing
 “ abroad that I have revenged the injury done
 “ to the honour of Collatinus !” In short, this
 monster, by threats and violence, triumphed over
 the virtuous Lucretia, and returned the next
 morning to the camp. Lucretia, thus dishonoured,
 thought herself unworthy to live. She wrote
 to her husband in the following terms : “ I beg
 “ that you will immediately repair to the house
 “ of my father Lucretius at Rome.” She then
 put on a mourning robe, under which she concealed
 a poignard, and went to her father, threw
 herself at his feet, bedewed them with her tears,
 and related to him the story of her misfortune.
 At this instant, Collatinus arrived, accompanied
 by his friends, when Lucretia immediately addressed
 him thus : “ Alas, my lord, I am no
 “ longer worthy of your love. My heart, it is
 “ true, has always been faithful to you, but my
 “ person has been defiled. Sextus Tarquinius
 “ came to your house, and has dishonoured me.
 “ Romans revenge my cause ; revenge your
 “ own.” Having thus spoken, she drew the
 poignard, stabbed herself, and expired. Those
 who were present at this melancholy catastrophe
 could

could not refrain from tears. While they thus were involved in grief, Lucius Junius, who, to avoid the cruel distrust of the king, had feigned ideotism, from whence he was surnamed Brutus, approached the dead body, drew out the dagger all bloody, and, with a resolute tone of voice, expressed his indignation in the following words : “ I swear by this dagger, and by this
 “ blood, to revenge the injury which hath been
 “ committed against this virtuous woman. And,
 “ in order to banish kingly government from
 “ Rome, I will lose the last drop of my blood.
 “ I call the Gods to witness I swear to do this
 “ justice to my country.”

He then delivered the poignard into the hands of Collatinus, of Lucretius, of Valerius, and, in short, of all present, and made them swear in the same manner. The oath was the signal of a general insurrection. The news of this melancholy disaster soon spread through the whole city ; and the people came hastily from all parts to the house of Lucretius. As Lucretia was universally beloved, her unhappy fate was universally lamented. The sight of her blood drew tears from every eye ; her blood was the mouth which demanded revenge. The people, irritated against these tyrants, appeared immediately in arms. The army being informed of what passed in Rome, revolted. They plundered the king's
 palace,

palace, devoted him to destruction ; and condemned to the most cruel punishments those who endeavoured to re-establish kingly government. They appointed annual magistrates under the title of consuls, for the government of the state. Brutus, the author of their liberty, was elected consul, together with Collatinus, the husband of the unfortunate Lucretia.



The DECENVIRI at Rome exercise tyranny over the people ; one of them being enamoured with a young damsel, whom he saw passing by while he was sitting on the tribunal, the giving a loose to his passion was the occasion of the DECENVIRI being banished, and the Decemvirate abolished.

AT the commencement of the Roman republic, the senate and the people were continually divided. The senators wanted to have the sole government of the state ; and the people were desirous of sharing it with them. To put an end to these divisions and animosities,
ambassadors

ambassadors were sent to Athens to collect the laws of Solon. On the return of these ambassadors ten commissaries were established, under the title of Decemviri, to form a body of laws, which was for the future to be the rule of government of the Roman republic. They composed the laws of the twelve tables, some fragments of which are still remaining. As all the dignities of the republic were united in the Decemvirate, they exercised a despotic power in Rome. They commanded the troops sent against the Eques and Sabines. Appius Claudius, the most ambitious, cruel, and politic of the Decemviri, remained at Rome invested with the whole power of his colleagues, which he supported by having a body of troops always attending on his person.

By his caprice alone the lives and properties of the citizens were disposed of. As he was one day sitting on the tribunal, issuing his unjust decrees, he saw a young damsel of exquisite beauty about fifteen years of age, passing by in her way to the public school, attended by her nurse. Appius Claudius, struck with the charms and growing graces of her person, viewed her with looks full of desire.

The next day, about the same hour, he again saw her pass by, and thought her still more amiable

able than before. In short, being unable to suppress his passion, he informed himself of her name and family; and having learned that she was the daughter of a Plebeian, her name Virginia, and that she was to be married to Icilius another Plebeian, he resolved to try every method to seduce her, and to satisfy his criminal desires. But imagining that the modesty and innocence of this young maiden would be alarmed if he should make proposals to her himself, he determined to employ a woman of intrigue, experienced in the art of trafficking for the beauty of young females; and accordingly, by considerable presents, and large promises, he procured one who undertook the business. This woman quickly contracted an acquaintance and intimacy with Virginia's nurse. As it is usual to judge of others by ourselves, she imagined that presents would have the same effect upon the nurse which they had had upon her. She therefore at first made her a present of a moderate value, to prevent all suspicion; and afterwards, by degrees, some of more worth; and promised her others of considerable value. At length she had so far acquired the confidence of the nurse, that she ventured to disclose to her the business. But the prudent and faithful nurse rejected her overtures with

with horror, restored the presents, and forbid her the house.

These obstacles rather increased than abated the passion of Appius; and he thought of another method, in the use of which his great power promised him success. He engaged M. Claudius, one of his clients, to claim Virginia as his slave. M. Claudius was one of those bold, enterprising, impudent men, who, by a criminal compliance, gain the confidence of the great. This odious minister of the Decemvir's passion, sacrificing probity and humanity to his interest, went to the school where the young Virginia was, and, taking her by the hand, would have dragged her to his house, saying that she was born one of his slaves, and belonged to him. Virginia, quite struck dumb with astonishment, could only resent this violence by her tears; but her nurse forced her from the hands of her ravisher; who, upon this, said he would not proceed by force in this affair, but that he would claim the protection of the laws: and summons those who opposed the justice of his pretensions, to appear immediately before the Decemvir. Then taking Virginia by the hand, he conducted her to the tribunal of Appius Claudius.

The people followed them, some from a motive of curiosity, and others from the regard they had

had for Virginia's father. Numitor, the uncle of the damsel, being informed of this event, flew to her assistance. The ravisher urged his claim in the following manner : — “ This girl was
 “ born in my house, and was secretly stolen from
 “ thence by a slave, who is her mother ; and
 “ who, the better to cover the theft, pretended
 “ to have been delivered of a dead child. She
 “ sold this girl to the wife of Virginus, who
 “ was barren, but being willing to pass for a
 “ child-bearing woman, adopted her as her
 “ daughter. I can easily prove by incontestible
 “ witnesses the truth of what I advance ; and
 “ am therefore going to take her home with
 “ me, as it is but justice that the slave should
 “ follow the master ; and I will give security for
 “ producing her again, if Virginus should still
 “ pretend that he is her father.”

It was plain to all present, though they disguised their real thoughts, that the effrontery of this falsifier was supported by the authority of the judge ; and the uncle of Virginia stifling his resentment, represented to the Decemvir, with all the moderation he was then master of, that it was unjust to call in question the birth of any citizen in the absence of the party's father ; that he only requested two days to be allowed for the return of Virginus, who was gone from
 Rome

Rome on the service of his country ; during which time he proposed keeping Virginia at his house, as it would be unjust to send the daughter of a Roman citizen to a house where her honour would be in still greater danger than her liberty. “ The laws, added he, ordain, that in
 “ any suit, before judgment is passed, the plain-
 “ tiff shall not trouble the defendant in his pos-
 “ session.” All approved the justice of this request, and thought that the Decemvir could not refuse complying with it : but inordinate passion hearkens not either to law or reason, as appears by the following reply of the Decemvir : “ I am
 “ particularly bound to be the protector of that
 “ law, as it was I who digested it in the ten
 “ tables ; but the nature of it is not the same
 “ with the case before us. It belongeth only
 “ to the father to reclaim those whom he pre-
 “ tends are his children ; and, was he present,
 “ I should without scruple adjudge to him the
 “ possession of her. I will readily grant a ne-
 “ cessary time for Virginus’s return from the
 “ army ; but I cannot deprive a citizen of a
 “ slave which he lays claim to.”

Claudius was now about to take her away ; when the whole assembly expressed their indignation at this unjust decree, by a general murmur. The women, with tears in their eyes, ranged them-

themselves around Virginia, serving as a rampart against the attacks of her ravisher. Claudius, disregarding their tears, complaints, and intreaties, attempted to get her away from among them; when Icilius, to whom she was promised in marriage, entered the place, his eyes sparkling with rage and resentment. Appius, knowing the esteem he was held in by the people, dreaded him; and sent one of the Lictors to tell him to retire, and that the affair was determined. But Icilius, whose love was injured, and who penetrated into the designs of the Decemvir, thus addressed himself to him:

“ Sooner will I lose my life, O tyrant, than
 “ thou shalt enjoy the fruit of thine iniquity.
 “ Art thou not contented with having deprived
 “ us of our tribunes, the protectors of our liber-
 “ ty; but wilt thou give us also the afflicting
 “ sight of viewing the Roman maidens disho-
 “ noured? Virginia is promised to me in mar-
 “ riage. I ought to espouse a virgin, a free
 “ damsel, and will not receive her but from the
 “ hands of her father. If, during his absence,
 “ you do violence to his daughter, I will call
 “ the Roman citizens to my aid; Virginus will
 “ implore that of the soldiery, and the Gods
 “ will be favourable to us. But even if I stand
 “ alone, justice and affection will afford me
 “ strength

“ strength sufficient to defend my wife.” This speech fired the minds of the people ; which Claudius perceiving, retired to put himself under the protection of the Decemvir. The populace came flocking to the place from all parts; the tumult encreased ; the Romans animating each other. Appius perceiving a revolt ready to break out, determined to stop the execution of the sentence ; and said that he would consent to Virginia’s remaining at liberty till the next morning, by which time Virginius might arrive from the army, to prove his right to the girl. Claudius pretended to consent with reluctance to this delay, and demanded security for her appearance the next day. Icilius offered himself to be bound, and they dared not refuse him. Appius, however, secretly dispatched an express to his colleagues, who commanded the army, intreating them not to permit Virginius to return to Rome ; flattering himself that he should be authorized to put Virginia into the hands of Claudius, provided her father did not appear at the time prescribed. But the friends of Virginius outstripped the Decemvir’s courier ; and he had obtained leave, and was departed before the latter arrived. He appeared the next morning in the public place, with a disconsolate air, holding his daughter by the hand, whose cheeks were
bathed

bathed with tears. They were surrounded by their relations, who, sharing in their misfortunes, appealed to the people, whether they thought it just, that while a citizen was exposing his life in the defence of his country, his children should be subject to the outrages of tyrants more cruel than the professed enemies to the Roman name. Virginius related his melancholy tale to all he met, and conjured them to take his daughter under their protection. Icilius, yielding to love and rage, declaimed against the injustice and lasciviousness of the Decemvir. Every body, except the tyrant and his agent, were touched with the sighs and wailings of this disconsolate family. The tears of Virginia, her graces, and beauty, melted every heart.

Appius being informed that Virginius was in the public place, with his family, and friends, trembled with rage; the more obstacles he met with, the more was his passion inflamed. When transported thereby he ascended the tribunal, and being surrounded by the soldiers to prevent any revolt, he threatened to punish those who should cause the least disturbance; then addressing himself to Claudius, bid him urge his plea, and produce his allegations. This impostor, firm in his wicked purpose, said that he laid claim to Virginia, as being the daughter of one of his slaves;

slaves; and produced at the same time one whom he had suborned, to testify that she had sold Virginia to the wife of Virginus. To which Claudius added, that he could easily bring other witnesses if it was necessary, and hoped that the Decemvir would render him justice. In vain the relations and friends of Virginus attested, that his wife had had several children; that they saw her when she was big with the girl in question; that the infant, on its coming into the world, was delivered into the hands of her relations; that all the neighbours were witnesses that her mother suckled the young Virginia herself, which she could not have done, had she been barren, as alledged by Claudius; and lastly, that it was very surprising he should have been silent in this affair for the space of fifteen years, and that he only claimed her now on account of her extreme beauty, which was doubtless the cause of her present persecution. These reasons were so plausible that Appius was afraid they might make an impression on the multitude; to prevent which he spoke as follows: “ My conscience obliges me to declare, that I have been informed of the truth of this matter a long time. Claudius, on his death-bed, appointed me guardian to his son. A little while after, it was hinted to me, that I ought to claim

C

“ this

“ this young slave as belonging to my ward.
 “ Upon enquiry I was satisfied of the truth of
 “ the fact. The affairs, however, of the pub-
 “ lic prevented my thinking of this ; but as I
 “ must do now justice to every one, I decree
 “ that the plaintiff retain this girl as his slave.”

This unjust sentence was like a thunder-bolt to Virginius ; he remained some time in silent consternation ; at length, his rage bursting forth, he said, that the Decemvir alone was the author of the imposture ; and then addressing himself to him, “ Know, says he, that I have not brought
 “ up my daughter to be the instrument of your
 “ pleasures. How can you imagine that the
 “ Romans will suffer their wives and daughters
 “ to be taken from them to be dishonoured by
 “ a tyrant.”

This speech roused the indignation of all present, and murmurings were uttered on all sides. Appius, transported with fury, ordered the soldiers to disperse the people ; and sent one of his Lictors to clear the way for Claudius, that he might go and seize Virginia. The populace, terrified by the blows and menaces of the soldiers, retired. Virginius seeing himself abandoned, and his daughter left a prey to her ravisher, asked permission that he might speak to her in private with her nurse, before she was
 taken

taken away, in order to discover if there were any indications of her not being his child ; and to console himself the more easily on account of the loss of her. His request was granted, on condition that he should not depart from the place. Virginus, deeply affected with grief, took his daughter in his arms, wiped her face which was bathed in tears, embraced her, and carried her towards the shops which border the place. There, revolving in his mind what was best to be done, and looking about him on every side, by chance espied a butcher's knife, which despair prompted him to take hold of, and then addressing himself to Virginia, he said, " My
 " dear daughter, this is the only way to preserve
 " your honour and your liberty." At the same time he plunged the knife into her heart, and, drawing it out again reeking with her blood, cried out, " By this innocent blood, Appius, I
 " devote thy head to the infernal deities."

The people being soon informed of this event, ran to the place, and, struck with the horrid spectacle, expressed, by cries and lamentations, their indignation against a tyrant, whose injustice had reduced a father to the cruel necessity of murdering his own daughter. The enraged Appius called out aloud to have Virginus taken into custody ; but this unfortunate father cleared

his passage with the knife in his hand, gained the city gate, and hastened to the camp, with part of his relations and friends, who would not abandon him in his misfortunes.

Numitorius and Icilius, quite overwhelmed with grief, exposed the body of Virginia to the view of the people, and exhorted them to revenge her death. This melancholly news soon spread throughout the city ; and the people came flocking from every quarter to the place ; even the senators came and mingled their tears with those of the people. Appius, fearing their credit and their eloquence, ordered them to retire, and commanded the body of Virginia to be taken from thence. But Valerius and Horatius, two of the senators, full of courage and resolution, contemned his orders ; and perceiving this to be a favourable opportunity for overthrowing the power of the tyrant, and destroying the Decemvirate, resolved to take the advantage of it, by spiriting up the Romans. Appius advanced with his Lictors and the body-guard, in order to arrest the two senators : but the people, incited by their resolution, broke the rods of the Lictors, repulsed the soldiers, and pursued Appius with so much impetuosity, that, to save his life, he was obliged to hide his face, and take shelter in a neighbouring house.

The

The two senators caused the body of Virginia to be placed on an open litter, and to be carried through the principal streets of the city, to excite the compassion of the Romans. Men, women, and children, came out of their houses to see this funeral pomp. Some threw perfumes into the litter, others flowers; and all lamented the unhappy fate of this young beauty. Their sorrows, their presents, were a pledge of their affection for her, and of the sincere desire they had of revenging her death. The body was deposited in the house of her father, to remain till the last offices could be performed for her.

The unfortunate Virginius, in the mean time, arrived at the camp, still holding in his hand the fatal knife wherewith he had slain his daughter. The soldiers hearing of his misfortune gathered round him; and Virginius sat some time silent in the midst of them, with his face covered with tears, and overwhelmed with grief. At length, lifting up his hands towards heaven, he broke this mournful silence, and said, "O immortal Gods, I call you to witness, that Appius alone is the author of the crime which I have committed in slaying my daughter." Then addressing himself to the soldiers, he proceeded thus: "I conjure you, my fellow soldiers, not to banish me from your society as a parricide

“ and murderer of my daughter. I would most
 “ willingly have sacrificed my own life to pre-
 “ serve her honour ; but the tyrant would have
 “ deprived her of that precious treasure ; and
 “ pity, therefore, rendered me cruel. The hope
 “ alone of revenging her death, by your assist-
 “ ance, prevented my following her to the
 “ grave.”

The soldiers, affected by this speech, promised
 to second him in all his enterprises ; and their
 resentment increasing on reflexion, they resolved
 to destroy the Decemvirate, and to punish all the
 Decemviri, as accomplices in the crime of their
 colleague. And, looking upon their authority,
 as from that instant unlawful, they took up arms,
 seized their ensigns, and directed their march to-
 wards Rome. The Decemviri endeavoured in
 vain to stop them ; they answered, that they
 would go to the relief of their fellow-citizens,
 and set their country at liberty. When they ar-
 rived at Rome, and were entering the city, they
 assured their relations and friends, as they passed
 along, that they were come with no other view
 than to destroy tyranny. In short, they traversed
 the city without quitting their ranks, marched
 to Mount Aventine, and refused to disperse, un-
 less the Decemvirati were demolished. The
 Decemviri upon this were obliged to resign their
 power,

power ; and consuls, and tribunes of the people, were chosen. Virginius was placed at the head of the latter : he cited Appius to justice, pressed earnestly for his being punished, and had him conducted to prison. Appius, dreading the punishment due to his crimes, put an end to his own life, according to the historian Titus Livius. The rest of the Decemviri were banished from Rome, and tranquillity was restored to the Republic. Thus the Romans, by revenging the death of Virginia, recovered their liberty. The death of Lucretia had been the means of their procuring it before.



*The envy of a woman against her sister,
opened a way for the PLEBEIANS
to the consular dignity.*

THE tribunes of the people, in spite of their intrigues and cabals, could not prevail so far as to obtain for the Plebeians the enjoyment of the consular dignity. In vain they represented that equality was the most solid foundation of a Republic ; and that the hope of arriving at dignities and honour was the only

means to inspire the citizens with emulation, and to aggrandize Rome. They ever met with invincible obstacles in the courage and resolution of the Patricians. A woman was interested in this dispute, and her tears gave the victory to the party that espoused her cause. A remarkable example of the power which women have over the minds of men. They scarce ever fail of succeeding, when their efforts are drawn even from their weakness.

Marcus Fabius Ambustus, a Patrician, had two daughters, the eldest of whom was married to Servius Sulpicius, one of the body of Patricians, and who then occupied the consulate; and the youngest was married to C. Licinius Stolon, a Plebeian. The latter one day paying a visit to her sister, heard such an extraordinary loud rapping at the door that alarmed her. The door being opened, she found the noise had been made by the Lictors striking with the stick of their fasces against the door, to give notice of the arrival of the consul. The wife of the consul said to her sister, with a smile of contempt, "This noise does not surprise the wives of Senators; they are used to it." The Plebeian's wife felt all the malignity of this sneer. Her vanity then humbled, threw her into so deep a melancholly that she could not conceal it from the eyes of her

her father and her husband, who frequently enquired the cause of it, but could not prevail on her to inform them. She was willing they should be witnesses of her chagrin a longer time, in order that it might affect them the more, and prepare them to apply a remedy the more speedily, when she should discover to them the cause. In short, as soon as she saw a proper opportunity, she told them with tears in her eyes, and with a dissembled confusion, that her uneasiness would be the cause of her death, if, as she was sprung from the same blood with her sister, her husband could not attain to the same dignities as her brother-in-law. Her father and husband, who loved her tenderly, solemnly protested, that they would leave no means untried to introduce the same dignities and pomp into her house, which she had seen in that of her brother-in-law.

Fabricius, sacrificing the interest of the senate to paternal love, joined with his son-in-law in the design of procuring the consular dignity for the Plebeians. They brought into their scheme Lucius Sextus, a Plebeian, but esteemed both by the senate and people, for his virtue and his eloquence. The wife of Licinius, emboldened by the oath which her father and husband had taken, daily excited them to prosecute their enterprize, with new efforts, enquiring frequently

quently what progress they had made. Thus this artful woman continually urged her father and husband to the pursuit of her designs; and after some troubles and divisions which were several times near kindling a civil war in Rome, the Plebeians were admitted to the consulate. Licinius attained to that dignity, and thereby gave his wife the satisfaction of hearing the noise of the fasces at her door.

A state is always great when the path to honours is open to all who are worthy of them.



The disgust of a Roman lady against her lover, rendered the conspiracy of CATALINE abortive.

CATALINE, one of the most wicked men recorded in history, formed vast projects, was bold in enterprise, indefatigable in labour, patient in troubles, and violent in his passions. He possessed in a superlative degree, the art of dissimulation. Nature seemed to have formed him only for wicked actions. Being ever plunged in excessive debaucheries, his expences were exorbitant, which he always repaired by some horrible

horrible crimes. The first which he committed was parricide : He caused his brother to be murdered, to get possession of his substance. Compassion and remorse were extinguished in his brother's blood.

Sylla shed the blood of the Romans, and invaded their territories. This cruel spectacle appeared ravishing in the eyes of Cataline. His ambition broke out ; he burnt with desire to imitate Sylla ; he sought the opportunity, found it, and seized it. Many Romans, deeply in debt, and who could hope for no resources but in the ruin of the state, appeared to him proper persons for seconding his designs. He spoke to them, seduced them, and engaged them in a conspiracy. The number of conspirators quickly increased. The flattering hopes of power seduced the rich, and they furnished him with money ; the charms of plunder allured the poor, who promised their best services ; and his debaucheries attracted the young to join him. He assembled the conspirators together, and united them by a chain of crimes. He slew an infant before them all, and made them drink it's blood, cementing their union by this horrid ceremony. Every thing was now resolved on, the day fixed, the poignards sharpened, and the hearts which were to be pierced were pointed out.

The fear of punishment, and the hope of success, were the pledges of their reciprocal confidence. Curtius, one of their number, was greatly in love with a Roman lady of illustrious birth, named Fulvia; and had seduced her by considerable presents; but as Fulvia's compliance was only from a motive of interest, she shewed him no marks of tenderness, as soon as she found him incapable of continuing his presents. Curtius imagined at first he had some rival; but he quickly discovered that his happiness had been solely owing to his liberality to her; and that his inability to continue it was the only cause of his losing her favour. Love, that passion so fatal to men, rendered him indiscreet; and in order to afford Fulvia some flattering hopes, he discovered to her the secret of the conspiracy; and described to her the riches which success promised him.

Fulvia, who had no more discretion than women of her character ordinarily have, revealed to several persons what Curtius had told her. The rumour of which spreading from mouth to mouth, reached the ears of Cicero. This great man, ever active and vigilant, gave great attention to what he had heard, traced it to its source, and paid a visit to Fulvia. This lady, flattered, no doubt, with seeing a man of such importance
addressing

addressing himself to her, sacrificed to him one for whom her heart had never entertained any tender sentiment. She revealed to Cicero the whole secret of the conspiracy ; and even engaged so to manage matters with Curtius, as to learn from him every minute circumstance, for the information of Cicero. The more particulars the Roman orator was informed of, the nigher he perceived the evil approaching ; but the sole deposition of a woman of bad reputation was not sufficient to attack juridically a man of Cataline's high birth ; other proofs and evidences were wanting. He employed spies in every place ; gained over many of the conspirators ; and, by their means, was present at all their conferences, and made himself acquainted well with the designs of Cataline. At length, Cicero being furnished with convincing proofs, assembled the senate, and made the discovery. Cataline departed from Rome, and took up arms ; he was pursued ; overtaken ; a battle ensued, in which he was killed ; and thus Rome was saved.

*The ugliness of a woman was the occasion
of a civil war, between ANTONY
and OCTAVIUS.*

ROME was not freed from tyranny by the death of Julius Cæsar ; three seditious persons seized the reins of government. Mark Antony, Octavius, and Lepidus, formed that famous league known by the name of *The Triumvirate*, divided the empire of the world between them, and cemented their power by the blood of the most illustrious Romans. The prince of eloquence lost his life in this horrid massacre. The barbarous Antony caused his head to be brought to him, that he might have the cruel assurance of his death : He afterwards presented it to Fulvia, his wife, whom he knew was transported with the same fury as himself. That odious woman, the scourge of the world, took this precious remnant of Cicero, placed it upon her knees, and, after having treated it with all the outrages that inhumanity could inspire, she carried her barbarity so far as to take out the tongue of that
great

great man, and pierced it through several times with the bodkin which fastened her head-dress.

This woman, the most violent in her passions, was no sooner informed that Antony, who was appointed to the government of the east, was the lover of Glaphira, Queen of Cappadocia, than she abandoned herself to all the transports of jealousy, and endeavoured to put in practice every method of revenge with which her fury inspired her. The first that presented itself to her imagination was, to render her husband infidelity for infidelity. Octavius was young, and agreeable in person : Fulvia made him a tender of her favours ; but, besides her being advanced in years, nature had not bestowed on her any of those female graces requisite to excite love. Octavius made no return to her advances ; but, on the contrary, the disgust of this young triumvir augmented in proportion as Fulvia's passion for him increased. This woman, influenced solely by her passion and self-love, imagined that it was timidity alone restrained Octavius ; she therefore discovered to him the sentiments of her heart, and expressed her expectations of a suitable return. Octavius now very plainly declared to her his disgust to her person ; and not confining himself to a bare refusal, he carried matters so far as to make this adventure public ; and composed

posed six verses on the subject, which he distributed among his friends, in order to be dispersed abroad, in substance as follows: “ Fulvia is willing that I should bear the punishment due to the infidelity which Antony, her husband, is guilty of with Glaphira ; and that I should become her lover. Must I be the gallant of Fulvia ? I have too good a taste for that. But with one hand she offers me her heart, and war with the other. Her ugliness terrifies me more than death itself. Sound trumpets.”

Fulvia being informed that Octavius despised her to such a degree as to make her the laughing-stock of Rome, vowed his destruction. She went to L. Antony, her husband's brother, who was a man of weak intellects, and prevailed on him to levy troops, and make war against Octavius, in order to force him to abdicate the triumvirate. She put a helmet on her head, girted a sword to her side, and declared to the soldiers which her brother commanded, that the liberty of their friends, their children, and themselves, depended on their courage, and that she would lead them against a tyrant who held Rome in captivity. Believing them capable of fighting, she conducted them against Octavius ; but the Triumvir, by fair promises, gained over a part of the enemy's army, and compelled the rest to lay
down

down their arms. Fulvia, whose fury increased with the difficulties she met with, in endeavouring to gratify her revenge, went into the east to her husband, and filled his mind with distrust against Octavius. In short, by her artful insinuations she sowed the seeds of discord between the two Triumviri, and caused them to take up arms against each other.



The affection and regard which a citizen of Rome had for his father, raised him to the throne of the CÆSARS.

TITUS ANTONINUS, together with the advantages of a fine person, possessed so amiable a disposition that he was beloved by all who had the pleasure of conversing with him. His relations and friends strove which should give him the strongest proofs of their regard; insomuch that every one of them had, by will, bequeathed a legacy to Antoninus. Fortune, which seemed to repent of it's former injustices, lavished both wealth and honour on this sagacious Roman. His virtues were by all admired;

admired; and all rejoiced in his happiness. Riches, which too commonly corrupt the heart of man, served only to display the virtues of Antoninus to greater advantage. He hastened to the relief of the distressed; he ever preserved the same regard for his friends, and the same attention and respect for his parents.

Sensible that it was his duty to pay to his father, who was arrived to extreme old age, a suitable return for his care of him in his infancy, every time the old man was obliged to go abroad, he served him as a guide and support. On a time when the emperor Adrian had convoked the senate, Titus Antoninus conducted thither his father, supporting him under the arms. The emperor, struck with admiration, resolved that instant to adopt him, that he might pass the remainder of his life with a man who gave such proofs of filial piety, and who, by his sweetness of disposition, presaged to the Romans a happy and peaceful reign.

Adrian was not deceived in his expectations; for, no sooner had he given to Titus Antoninus the quality of emperor's son, than he saw this virtuous man, devoted solely to his service, and prevented even his smallest wants. Adrian, in the violent pains which a mortal distemper occasioned him, found consolation only in the zeal
and

and earnestness which his adopted son shewed to comfort him, and in the sweetness of the conversation he held with him, to divert his pain.

After the death of Adrian, Titus ascended the throne to give happiness to the people. He forgave all that was due to the treasury of the emperor, abolished many taxes which were too burthen some, examined into the conduct of those who were appointed to administer justice to his subjects, rewarded the learned and ingenious, relieved the distressed, and kept up strict discipline among the soldiers. His virtues were the admiration of distant nations; he was a friend to all the sovereigns of his time, who often solicited him to arbitrate their disputes; and submitted to his determination. In short, under the reign of this great man, the Roman empire was flourishing, the world was at peace, and mankind enjoyed a happiness which they were strangers to before.



*A child causes the death of the emperor
COMMODUS, by playing with a pa-
per which he had found in the cham-
ber of that emperor.*

COMMODUS, the son of Marcus Aurelius, was one of those monsters who dishonoured the throne of the Cæsars. He practised every vice, and did not possess one virtue. Many writers, not being able to persuade themselves that the virtuous Marcus Aurelius could be the father of so abominable a man as Commodus, have said, that he was the son of a gladiator; and the incontinency of his mother Faustina, authorized this conjecture. That shameless woman abandoned herself to the lowest order of men, always giving the preference to the most robust, as appearing most capable of satisfying her inordinate desires.

The emperor, destitute of every virtuous sentiment as well as his mother, and having something, perhaps, of the character of a gladiator, to whom he owed his birth, he delighted in exhibiting himself at the theatres; and one day he was so senseless as to shew himself naked among
the

the gladiators. Martia, his concubine, willing to exercise that power which she imagined her favours to Commodus intitled her to, represented to him, that this proceedure was unworthy of an emperor, who ought always to conceal his weakness from the public view; and endeavour to appear more than human; and her remonstrances were seconded by several of his ministers. This was prudent advice; but Commodus was of too base a mind to follow it. On the contrary, he considered it as an opposition to his will, as an attempt against his power; and, in short, as a crime worthy of death. He rejoiced, therefore, in having found an opportunity for shedding human blood. He immediately wrote out a sentence of condemnation against those who had dared to give him their advice so repugnant to his inclination. A little boy whom he had reared in his palace, followed him into his apartment, and staying there after his departure, took up the paper on which the sentence was written, and was playing with it; when Martia, accidentally meeting him, took it out of his hand, and, on reading it, found that Commodus had destined her to be put to death; she therefore hastened to the persons whose names were included in the death warrant, and advised them to avoid their own destruction by destroying the emperor.

peror. Her counsel was approved ; and it was resolved, that it should be put into immediate execution ; the only difficulty was how to accomplish it. Martia proposed to dispatch him by poison, and undertook to administer it to him herself. She accordingly mixed it in a draught of liquor, and gave it him when he was very hot from his exercise with the gladiators. It threw him into a slumber ; he awakened, and vomited a good deal. The conspirators, fearing lest he should discharge all the poison he had taken, employed one of the wrestlers, whom they let into his chamber, to strangle him. Having thus made sure of his death, they went in the middle of the night to Pertinax, then prefect of Rome. Pertinax, imagining that they came to take away his life by order of Commodus, said to them : “ I have expected death every day for a
 “ long time past, and am prepared for it ; strike
 “ then, for there is nothing in it horrible to me.” They replied, that so far from wishing to take away his life, they came to offer him the empire, Commodus being dead of an apoplexy. This man, who was so well prepared to die, received the empire with joy. Next morning he was proclaimed emperor amidst the acclamations of the people, who rejoiced to find themselves delivered from Commodus.

The



The permission which a husband gave to his wife to be false to his bed, occasioned the abolition of a grievous tax.

C O N S T A N C E, the son and successor of the great Constantine, without being a wicked man, was a bad emperor. He placed intire confidence in unjust, avaritious, and ambitious ministers. By their advice he established a burthensome impost, and sent orders to the * prefects of provinces to raise it with punctuality, and even with rigour. A poor man of Antioch, who could scarcely subsist by his labour, was taxed in a considerable sum ; but his poverty rendered him unable to pay. In vain did the collectors apply to and threaten him ; he had nothing but tears to give them. They, however, complained to the prefect of the province, that this man was able to pay, and that his refusal arose rather from avarice than poverty. The prefect, persuaded of the truth of this representation,

* They had the administration of justice, of the finances, and the inspection of the troops.

sent

sent the poor wretch to prison, and ordered that he should pay the tax at an appointed day, or lose his life.

A man of considerable substance, who had long been enamoured with the prisoner's wife, went to her, and promised to pay the sum demanded of her husband, provided she would satisfy his passion. The woman, who tenderly loved her husband, was long held in suspense between the desire of delivering him from prison and preserving his life, and the aversion she had to injuring his bed. At length she was resolved to consult her spouse. The man, considering that from his poverty he had no prospect but death before his eyes, consented that his wife, though she was extremely dear to him, should accept of the offer made her. The woman sent to inform the rich man to get the money ready, and she would consent to his wishes. He directed her to repair to his country house, some distance from Antioch, where he would meet her, and perform his promise. They accordingly met together there; when he shewed her a bag full of silver; but after his desires were satisfied, he artfully conveyed away that bag, and substituted another in it's place filled with Earth. When the woman discovered the fraud, she was distracted with rage; but this emotion was quickly succeeded

ly succeeded by grief at having lost the flattering hope of releasing her husband. At length, after having been some time agitated by many uneasy sensations, arising from a succession of different reflexions; she went and threw herself at the feet of the prefect, relating to him the whole affair, and besought him to do her justice. Her tears and sighs bore witness to the truth of what she had related. The prefect, touched with her distress, and vexed at the same time with having been the cause of reducing a virtuous woman to such an extremity, by the threats he made use of to her husband, payed the debt himself, and adjudged to her the possession of the country house wherein she had been deceived. He afterwards informed the emperor of this adventure, and engaged him to abolish the tax which had occasioned it.

The imprudence of an envoy of HONORIUS, in reading aloud a letter he had just received, occasioned the siege and sackage of Rome.

ARCADIUS, the son of the great Theodosius, was a weak prince, who neither knew how to command, nor to make himself obeyed; so timid that he dared not to appear at the head of his armies; so indolent that he never examined into his most important affairs, but left the care of the government to base eunuchs, who cheated him daily; and the command of his troops to avaritious and ambitious generals, who betrayed him with impunity. The barbarians, who had been always repulsed by the courage and activity of his predecessors, took advantage of the weakness of his government, and over-run the territories of the Roman empire, as an impetuous river which hath broken down it's banks. And not meeting with any resistance, they marched wherever their fury directed them.

Alaric

Alaric was at the head of the Visigoths; he made the Romans tremble, insomuch that they were afraid to oppose a man who knew so well how to command and to conquer. Honorius, who shut himself up in Ravenna, heard with shameful tranquillity the horrid relations brought to him of the miseries his subjects were daily exposed to. While the Visigoths were destroying the towns, murdering the men, ravishing the women, pillaging and burning the churches, and ravaging the country, that cowardly emperor was amusing himself in his menagery with his hens. In order to rouse him from his indolence, he was informed, that Alaric was marching forward with his troops, and proposed going to Rome, and after ravaging that city, would, no doubt, attack Ravenna. Upon this, Honorius called a council, and told them, that troops must be raised to punish the haughty barbarian; he was uneasy, and spoke with some warmth; but afterwards he resolved to solicit Alaric to lay down his arms, and appointed ambassadors to go immediately to treat with the Visigoths on terms of peace. Alaric demanded a considerable sum of money and grain sufficient to furnish his troops during the winter; and that the emperor should confer on

him the title of general of the Roman armies. Honorius communicated these proposals to the eunuchs who were about his person ; and as the enemy appeared to them to be pacified, they were for shewing their courage by a refusal, and gave their advice accordingly to Honorius, who was already predisposed to follow it.

He therefore wrote to Jovius, his ambassador, who was then with Alaric, that he would consider of the article relating to the provision and money ; but that he never should be so weak as to give to a barbarian, such as Alaric, the title of General of the Roman Armies. Jovius, being in Alaric's tent when he received the letter, was so imprudent as to read it aloud. Alaric hearing the article relating to the generalship, flew into a passion, gave orders to his soldiers to strike their tents, and march directly to Rome ; which place he made himself master of in spite of the utmost efforts of the besieged ; and the Visigoths put all to fire and sword. It is needless to describe, in this place, the sacking of Rome ; as it is to be met with in numberless authors, and as it is easy to form an idea of the behaviour of these barbarians in their fury.

A person

A person * who had escaped the sword of the enemy, hastened to inform Honorius of this melancholy news, saying, with a sigh, "Rome is taken." "How can Rome be taken?" replied the emperor; I fed her myself this morning." "Alas, continued the other, the Visigoths have made themselves masters of it; they have pillaged the houses, murdered the men, violated the women, pulled down the churches, palaces, and all the fine monuments of our forefathers." "Oh, returned Honorius, you are speaking of the city of Rome: I thought you had meant my hen [so named]: She is not destroyed then, God be thanked."

Astonishing beyond measure, to see so insignificant a being fill the throne of the Cæsars!

† Procope de Bello Goth.



E 3

BELISARIUS,



BELISARIUS, *one of the greatest captains history boasts, after having conquered the Persians, subdued Africa and Italy, was deprived of all his honours and dignities, for having expressed his resentment at the conduct of his wife.*

ALMOST every nation was subdued by the Romans : Europe, Africa, and Asia, submitted to their power ; but after their conquests were completed, they neglected the preservation of them. The barbarians of the north, not finding sufficient subsistence in their barren climates, passed in large bodies into the Roman territories ; and, after having committed horrid carnage, got possession of the finest provinces, and erected kingdoms therein. When Justinian ascended the imperial throne, the Roman empire possessed only the languishing remains of it's former grandeur. The Ostrogoths were masters of Italy ; the Visigoths possessed Spain ; the Vandals

dals were settled in Africa ; and Gaul was under the dominion of the Francks.

Justinian formed the vast project of attacking all these barbarians, and of establishing the Roman empire in it's ancient glory. He perceived that Belisarius possessed all military talents in a superior degree, and therefore placed him at the head of his troops ; and being thus seconded by so powerful an army, he resolved to attempt the execution of his projects.

The Persians, sinking under the prowess of Belisarius, sued for peace. Africa saw this hero, and submitted. Italy, unable to resist him, became subject to the dominion of the Romans. He returned to Constantinople, to receive the tribute of honours due to his victories. All eyes beheld him with pleasure ; every mouth was lavish in his praises. This great man, so worthy of respect and veneration, was the husband of a prostitute, who abandoned herself to the utmost excesses of debauchery. Antonina was the bed-fellow of all the young gentlemen of Constantinople ; and, from one prostitution to another, she arrived to such a degree of effrontery, that she did not even endeavour to save appearances. Belisarius, whose thoughts were employed solely on the acquisition of glory, deigned not to pay

the least attention to the irregularities of his wife. But being informed that his lenity was the subject of raillery among the officers, he grew exasperated against her, reproached her in the most bitter terms, threatened to destroy her, and forbid her to stir out of her apartment.

Antonina communicated her misfortune to the empress Theodora, intreating her to employ her authority in her behalf. Theodora, the wife of Justinian, was still more addicted to debauchery than Antonina. Before she was married to Justinian she lived by prostitution; but after her marriage with him, she behaved with more caution, Belisarius's wife being the only confidant of her pleasures. Theodora being therefore interested in the fate of Antonina, she sent for her; and kept her with her until she found a pretext for distressing Belisarius to such a degree, as that he had occasion for the credit and interest of his wife.

The wishes of the artful Theodora were soon gratified. A kind of revolt happened at this time among the soldiery; and Belisarius was accused, by order of the empress, of being the author thereof; though perfectly innocent. Justinian, instigated by the advice of his wife, confiscated his substance, estate, and goods, deprived

prived him of all his dignities, and of the command of the troops. Before Belisarius's disgrace, every person thought it an honour to be in his company ; but after his misfortune, none dared to speak to him, compassionate him, or even mention his name. True friends are rarely met with among the great. The common people had more pity ; they saw with grief the conqueror of Africa and Italy deserted, sorrowful, and depressed, without wealth, without honours, and banished from the throne which owed it's lustre to him.

Theodora saw his grief with joy. She flattered herself, that by obtaining his re-establishment through the sollicitation of Antonina, he would be obliged to pardon all the outrages which she had committed against him. At length, having learned that he abandoned himself to despair, she wrote him a letter in the following Terms. — “ You have offended me, “ Belisarius ; but Antonina intreats me to pardon you ; and I am under too many obligations to her to refuse her : I therefore grant “ you life, and restore to you your possessions. “ Remember to shew due gratitude to your “ wife ; it is to her alone you are indebted for “ this favour.” As soon as he had read this letter, he hastened to his wife, embraced her,

thanked her for the service she had done him, and promised to treat her, for the future, with all possible regard.



CABADES, king of the Persians, re-ascends the throne, by means of his wife's intrigue with a soldier.

CABADES, king of Persia, was a great warrior, but a bad prince. He treated his subjects with the utmost cruelty; took away such of their wives from them as pleased him, and put their husbands to death, if they dared to complain. The wife of this great debauchee was of such exquisite beauty, that she charmed all who beheld her.

A young soldier belonging to the king's guard, seeing her, one day, pass by, was struck with admiration; and observed, that he who possessed so fine a woman, must enjoy the highest felicity. The queen heard him; and, as love and flattery always please the ladies, whatever mouth they proceed from, she cast a glance at him expressive of her satisfaction. Love soon kindles a flame
in

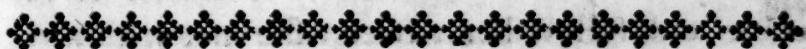
in the breast of a man who thinks he has met with a woman of sensibility. The soldier thought he perceived something of tenderness in the look of the queen. He imagined that nothing but a proper opportunity was wanting to make him happy, and flattered himself that he should meet with one. But the queen was so well guarded, that all his researches were ineffectual. The image of this beautiful princess was impressed on his heart, and the persuasion of his not being indifferent to her, increased his passion to excess. At length, finding it impossible to succeed in his wishes, life became a burthen to him; and he sought occasions to lose it. When he was engaged in battle, he rushed into the greatest dangers; but his despair, which held the place of courage, occasioned him to be always victorious; he overcame all who opposed; and his example animating his fellow-soldiers, he frequently, when the victory was doubtful, fixed it in favour of the Persians. Cabades, being informed by his officers, of the merit of this soldier, recompensed his valour, and raised him to a higher station; and some time after gave him the command of a fortress.

He occupied this post, when the Persians, tired of the cruelties of Cabades, deposed him, and condemned him to pass the rest of his days in

one

one of the citadels ; and he was conducted to that which was commanded by the above-mentioned soldier. The king had not been there a month before the queen went thither to see him ; but as the soldiers, who guarded the tower, were expressly forbid not to admit any person, without leave from the governor, they pushed her back : In vain she importuned them ; her prayers and tears, so far from affecting the soldiers, were the subject of their diversion. She, hoping to find more politeness and complaisance in the governor, went to make her application to him. When, how great was his surprize and joy on seeing the woman, who had so long employed his whole thoughts and affections, now come to ask him a favour. She gave him a detail of her misfortunes ; he spoke to her of his passion. They mutually granted each other's request. She had free admittance into the tower, whither she came frequently ; and, perceiving that the soldiers, accustomed to see her passing to and fro very often, took little or no notice of her, she conveyed some of her apparel to Cabades, who passed undiscovered through the guards, went to the Huns, and returning with a powerful army, forced the Persians to return to their obedience, and re-ascended the throne ; which he enjoyed peaceably thirty years.

The



The severity of an empress to her daughter was the occasion of ATILA's ravaging Gaul and Italy, and of the Foundation of the City of Venice.

PLACIDIA, the daughter of Honorius, and mother of Valentinian III. emperor of the West, was a woman of intrigue; but knowing with what pleasure fame is apt to publish the faults of the great, she carefully concealed her failings from the public eye; and, when she appeared abroad, assumed such an air of modesty as imposed on every body.

Conscious of her own faults, she was the more careful to prevent the same in her daughter Honoria. All the time which she could spare from her pleasures, she employed in observing the conduct of that young princess. She watched all her steps; listened to all her discourses; none of her actions escaped her: She forbade her even looking at the men. This imprudent severity threw young Honoria into continual fear; fear prompted her to study the art of deceiving; and she accustomed herself to imposture. In short, far from finding in her mother a friend,
 who

who by lenity endeavoured to soothe her to receive and follow her advice, she met with a rigid censor, always ready to blame and to punish her. This young princess, a prey to the most violent passions, could not long submit to the restraint in which Placidia held her. In order to shake off a yoke so insupportable, she wrote a letter to Attila, king of the Huns, in which she offered him her hand, and as a pledge of her faith sent him the half of a ring. Attila, who only wanted a pretext for ravaging the West, took the advantage of Honoria's offer, and wrote to the emperor Valentinian that Honoria was his wife; desired he would send her to him, and likewise cede to him the moiety of the empire which was to be her portion.

Valentinian, having refused his request, as he foresaw he would, Attila put himself at the head of a very considerable army, entered Gaul, and put all to fire and sword. The celebrated Aetius marched against him, defeated him, and obliged him to depart from the territories of the empire. But this defeat served only to irritate Attila, who re-assembled all his forces, entered Italy, took Aquilia, massacred all the inhabitants, and laid the city in ruins. Milan, Padua, Verona, Mantua, &c. were likewise the victims of his barbarity.

The

The inhabitants of the adjacent parts retired to the point of the Adriatic Gulph, and built themselves cottages; their example was followed by others. This was the commencement of the city of Venice.

Attila continued his incursions and ravages. At length he accepted an annual tribute offered to him by Valentinian III. and repassed into Scithia, where he died.



The inability of a person who had lost a considerable sum at dice, to pay the same immediately, was the cause that the Vandals, settled in Africa, went to ravage Italy and sack Rome.

ROME, after having been pillaged and burnt by the Visigoths, seemed to spring up anew out of its own ashes. The citizens vied with each other in repairing their houses; the great sacrificed their wealth to re-establish the public monuments, commerce flourished, and plenty reigned in this superb city; but it was destined to fall a prey to barbarians. They enriched themselves a second time with its spoils; the

the difunion and luxury of the Romans, as it were, invited them to go thither. Valentinian, the worthy fucceffor of Honorius, faw, with infenfibility, the empire falling to ruin in every part. He was furrounded with enemies, and yet thought of nothing but his pleasures. Inftead of employing himfelf in confulting with his minifters for the prefervation of the ftate, he amused himfelf with playing at dice with them, and let flip no opportunity of cheating them. Maximus preferved the friendship of this weak emperor only by gaming with him.

One day, when they had been both deeply engaged at play, Maximus loft a confiderable fum; and as he had not fo much about him, the emperor obliged him to leave his ring with him as a security for the debt. Valentinian, who was artful in finding means to gratify his luftful defires, imagined that this ring might ferve him in obtaining the gratification of thofe which the charms of Maximus's wife had raifed in him; who was extremely beautiful, and whom he had often attempted to feducer by prefents and promifes. Accordingly he fent a confidant of his to tell this lady to come to court, where her husband waited for her; and to convince her that this order came from Maximus, he fent his
ring

ring to her. In the mean time he placed persons at the gate of the palace, to seize and carry her to a retired place, where he violated her honour.

This lady, thinking that her husband had the baseness to consent to her dishonour, loaded him with the bitterest reproaches; but Maximus, who really loved his wife, had no great difficulty to persuade her of his innocence; and in the fury with which jealousy inspired him, he made an oath to wash off their mutual disgrace in the blood of the emperor. He formed a conspiracy, and promised considerable sums to those who would enter into it. In short, he met with some who were wicked enough to undertake the parricide.

As soon as the news of Valentinian's death was made public, Maximus caused himself to be proclaimed emperor by his accomplices, who hoped, by his elevation, to meet with the reward of their crime. This new emperor resolved to make use of the occasion which the death of his wife afforded, to establish himself on the throne. He forced Eudoxia, the widow of Valentinian III. to accept his hand; and as she expressed her dislike of him, he thought to gain her heart by acknowledging the crime he had been guilty of. He told that princess, that, unable to resist the desire he had of possessing her,
he

he had resolved to destroy Valentinian. This confession had an effect quite contrary to his hopes. Eudoxia looked upon her condition with horror ; and though she suppressed her tears, it was only that the fury which now possessed her, might burst forth with the greater violence. In order to revenge the death of her spouse, she was determined to overthrow the empire, that the odious Maximus might be buried under it's ruins. She knew that the Vandals, settled in Africa, were governed by a king who was courageous, enterprising, active, and cruel : She wrote to and intreated him to come with an army to revenge the death of Valentinian, and wrest her from the arms of the most cruel of all tyrants. Her request was accompanied with considerable presents, with a positive promise of supplying him with every thing necessary.

This appeared to Genferic a favourable opportunity for satisfying the desire he had of pillaging Italy. He therefore got together a number of ships, and, embarking his soldiers on board, landed in Italy, and put all he met with to fire and sword ; then advanced to Rome, which he entered sword in hand. The Romans were so terrified that they thought of nothing but uttering their lamentations, and suffered such afflictions

tions as were shocking to nature. The pillage of Rome lasted fourteen days; during which time every thing which had escaped the fury of the Visigoths, and all that had been rebuilt were destroyed. Genseric returned to Carthage, carrying with him the empress Eudoxia, and all the principal personages of Rome, loaded with chains. The people, enraged against Maximus, tore him to pieces. The captivity of Eudoxia was agreeable to her, as before her departure she had the satisfaction of seeing the odious Maximus perish.



The remonstrances which AMALASONTE, queen of the Ostrogoths in Italy, made to a nobleman, on account of his avarice, occasioned the death of that virtuous princess, and the destruction of the kingdom of the Ostrogoths.

AMALASONTE was the daughter of the great Theodoric, king of Italy, and of Audesfede, sister of Clovis, king of France. All the historians extol her beauty: To the exterior graces of her person were joined all the good

good qualities of the heart and understanding. All ranks of people admired her. Theodoric was constantly happy in reflecting that he had given birth to so amiable a daughter ; and employed in conversing with her all the time which was not spent in the affairs of the state. In order to have her always near him, he refused several monarchs who demanded her in marriage, and bestowed her on Eutharic his relation, and declared him his successor to the crown of the Ostrogoths. Amalasonte had soon after the misfortune to lose her spouse and her father. The grandees of the kingdom, knowing her virtues and excellent talents, declared her regent with the title of queen, during the minority of her son Athalaric, whom she had by Eutharic.

They were not disappointed in their expectation. Amalasonte knew how to govern. She appointed able generals to command the troops, who defeated the efforts of the enemy. Places were bestowed only on persons of known merit. The conduct of the judges was examined ; the unfortunate were protected ; and vice was severely punished.

The avaricious and unjust Theodat, who was the son of Theodoric's sister, thought that on account of his high birth and station, he might
 seize

seize with impunity the substance of private persons. To some he refused payment of their just dues, and took possession by violence of the lands of others. Amalasonte, who was attentive to every thing, was soon informed of these unjust practices ; and thereupon wrote to Theodat, that he did not behave like a prince, and that he would render himself hateful to the people ; and concluded her letter with desiring that he would pay the debts he had contracted, and restore what he had usurped. This mean-spirited prince, guided by avarice rather than honour, conceived an implacable hatred against the queen, and swore that he would be revenged of her the first opportunity. As it is common for low minds to deal in treachery, he pretended to receive the advice of Amalasonte very gratefully, and to be sorry for his offences. He so far deceived her that Eutharic dying soon after, she divided the throne with him, and caused him to be declared king.

This perfidious wretch accepted the crown with the greater joy, as knowing that it would furnish him with the means of working her destruction who presented it to him. As he knew the impression which the virtues of Amalasonte had made on the people, he was obliged to conceal

conceal his cruel designs ; and to prevent all distrust
 in the queen, he always treated her with great
 respect, and was very submissive to her will. By
 this stratagem he gained his ends. Amalasonte
 neglected to observe his conduct, and the people
 and the soldiers accustomed themselves insensibly
 to regard Theodat as their king. At length,
 when he found his power sufficiently established
 to put his projects of revenge in execution, he
 ventured to attack Amalasonte ; and that the
 public might not immediately perceive his in-
 tentions to destroy her, he levelled not his first
 attacks at her, but at her friends and most zea-
 lous servants ; some of whom he banished, and
 put others to death. Soon after he caused her
 to be seized, and conducted to a little isle of Tus-
 cany, and protested to the Ostrogoths he had no
 hand in the retreat of Amalasonte, but that she
 was willing to pass the remainder of her days
 remote from the embarrassments of a court, and
 of government. He forced her by the most ter-
 rible threats to write to Justinian, that she quit-
 ted Italy on account of her being weary of roy-
 alty. Justinian, then emperor, would have suc-
 coured Amalasonte, had he known of her dis-
 tress ; but being ignorant of the restraint she
 was under, he gave credit to what she had writ-
 ten

ten to him. Theodat having taken these measures to prevent any one's knowing the unhappy situation of this princess, he sent some persons, whose cruelty he was well acquainted with, to put her to death ; which was executed with the utmost dispatch ; for they set out immediately, found Amalasonte in the Bath, rushed upon her, and strangled her. They returned directly to Ravenna, and gave out that she was dead of some natural disorder.

Avarice, which was the motive of all Theodat's actions, induced him to refuse paying the assassins so large a reward as he had promised. Upon which they murmured ; and the murder of Amalasonte did not long remain a secret. The Ostrogoths and the Italians were all affected at the sad catastrophe of a princess, whose virtues had inspired them with veneration for her. As soon as Justinian was informed of this affair, he was greatly exasperated, and vowed that he would revenge the death of a woman whom he so much loved and esteemed. He sent the celebrated Belisarius into Italy at the head of his troops. The Ostrogoths massacred Theodat, and proclaimed another king. All their efforts were ineffectual. Belisarius subdued one part of Italy ; and the eunuch, Narses, who succeeded him,

him, conquered the rest ; and overthrew the monarchy of the Ostrogoths.



The assassination of CHILPERIC, king of France, occasioned by his giving FREDEGONDE, his wife, a blow with a switch, in play.

F E W persons are ignorant that in the early times of the monarchy of France, all the sons of a king divided among them the succession of their father, each taking upon him the title of king. Clotaire the first, left four sons, Charibert, Gontran, Chilperic, and Sigebert.

Chilperic, king of Soissons, was a slave to every vice ; he was covetous, cruel, and ambitious ; and abandoned himself to the greatest excesses of debauchery. He married every woman that pleased him, without regard to her rank, and put her away as often as he met with another more amiable. Besides his wives, he had several concubines. The daughter of a peasant, of the village of Avaucour in Picardy, was a waiting-maid to one of his wives : Her beauty, charms,

charms, and wit, soon attracted the notice of the king, and he added her to the number of his concubines. She was the celebrated Fredegonde. This woman was so ambitious as to aspire to the throne. By her complaisance and assiduities, she had so far got possession of the heart of Chilperic, that she prevailed on him to put away his wife; but that monarch, influenced by the remonstrances, and by the example of his brother Sigebert, married Galsuinde, daughter of the king of Spain. Fredegonde stifled her ambition for the present, knowing that she should one day regain the heart of Chilperic; their mutual inclination for debauchery was a certain pledge of it. She therefore had recourse to all the aids of art to heighten her beauty, and gave to her gestures such an air of wantonness as rekindled the passion of the king; and he returned to her more enamoured with her than ever. Fredegonde, well knowing that reproaches were useless to a man of Chilperic's complexion, employed other means of getting rid of her rival. She poisoned Galsuinde. This unhappy death was the cause of terrible ravages in France. Brunehaut, the wife of Sigebert, and sister to Galsuinde, prevailed on her husband to avenge the death of her sister. Fredegonde irritated Chilperic against Sigebert

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and

and Brunehaut ; and much blood was spilt on both sides.

Fredegonde, who never lost sight of her darling object, took advantage of the passion of Chilperic to get herself declared queen. When her project was accomplished, she resolved to make herself amends with the young noblemen of the court for the favours which her ambition, rather than her love, had influenced her to bestow on Chilperic. The beauty, rank, and power of Fredegonde, quickly attracted a crowd of adorers ; among whom Landri was her greatest favourite ; and she obtained for him a post of such a nature as required his attendance near her person : But the happiness they enjoyed in the mutual gratification of their desires, was soon interrupted ; and Chilperic, by a very singular incident, discovered the correspondence between his wife and Landri. That monarch, being at Chelles, a country seat, whither he often went to relax after the fatigues of war and government, had made a party for hunting. Before he set out he went up to the queen's apartment, whom he found washing her face, and her hair dishevelled ; when he gave her a little stroke over the shoulder with a switch which he had in his hand : As her back was towards him, she thought it was her lover, and said to him,

“ Landri,

“ Landri, that is not the way women should be struck.” These words gave Chilperic to understand what passed between the queen and that courtier. He cast a very angry look at her, and departed for the chace, which he doubtless would not break off, in order to conceal his choler from those he was determined to punish. Fredegonde, who turned round, thinking to speak to her lover, was terrified at her husband’s contemptuous look ; and knowing his cruel and revengeful disposition, she sent for Landri, related to him what had happened, and concluded with telling him, that there was no other way for them to avoid punishment but by destroying the king.

Landri put her advice into speedy execution ; for that night, as Chilperic was dismounting from his horse, he received two stabs with a poignard, which killed him on the spot ; and the assassin escaped by favour of the night. Fredegonde, to avoid the punishment due to such a crime, caused it to be given out that Brunehaut was the author of it, and had employed the assassin.



A repartee of the empress SOPHIA, consort of JUSTINIAN II. is the cause of the Lombards invading Italy, and establishing themselves there.

NARSES, although an eunuch, was courageous, active, vigilant, artful, and subtle ; in short, he was a good officer. If he was not the rival of Belisarius, he was but little inferior to him. His talents for war gained him the confidence of Justinian I. His victories augmented the glory of that emperor's reign.

When Belisarius, loaded with laurels, was desirous of repose, Narses went to command the armies against the Ostrogoths. He defeated and slew the brave Totila, whom the enemy had elected king, made himself master of Rome, and sent the keys of that city to Justinian. Teias, who succeeded, fell by the hands of Narses in the midst of the Ostrogoths, who were all cut in pieces. Seventy-five thousand Franks endeavoured to stop the career of this redoubtable eunuch ; but their defeat added to his glory. The Ostrogoths, thus intimidated, laid down their arms, all the cities opened their gates, Italy submitted,

mitted, and Narses was chosen to command those whom he knew so well how to conquer. This wise governor first turned his thoughts on the means for repairing the evils which he had, through necessity, been the cause of. He sent for corn from foreign countries, and supplied those with it who were unable to purchase it ; he caused the ground to be sowed, rebuilt the houses which had been destroyed during the war, excused those who had suffered, from all taxes ; furnished the merchants with money to carry on commerce ; and protected Italy from the incursions of the barbarians, who in vain attempted to ravage it. The laws were re-established, letters and the arts flourished, the fields grew fertile, commerce was uninterrupted, and plenty reigned in all the places under the government of Narses.

Would any one think it possible that the Romans, about thirteen years after, should be guilty of so much ingratitude as to accuse Narses of having enriched himself at their expence, and of treating them with cruelty ? They sent deputies to Justin II. the successor of Justinian I. with complaints of their governor, threatening that if he were not recalled, they were ready to submit to the Goths. The imprudent Justin, without examining into the motive of this accusation,

gave credit to it, sent an order to Narses to return to Constantinople, and appointed Longin to succeed him. The empress Sophia, who formed her judgment of Narses only from the title of Eunuch, which she had heard him spoken of by, said, "You need only deliver him up to me, and I will put him to spinning among my women." Narses, being informed of this railery, was greatly exasperated, and replied, that he would weave such a woof, that neither the emperor nor empress should be able to unravel as long as they lived. He immediately wrote to Albouin, king of the Lombards, to quit Pannonia, and repair immediately to Italy, the conquest of which he would render very easy to him. Albouin, with his Lombards, began his march immediately, and meeting with no resistance, took possession of a part of Italy, and there founded a kingdom, which, notwithstanding all the efforts of the emperors, subsisted many ages.

A young



A young girl of the blood royal of the Saxons, being carried off from England by some pirates, her captivity was the occasion of her ascending the throne of France.

IN the seventh century the Danes and Normans ravaged all the maritime coasts of Europe. They pillaged the houses of the inhabitants, and carried into captivity all whom they met with. Among many other persons whom they had forced away from England, was a young lady named Batilda, of the blood royal of the Saxons. As they exposed these slaves to public sale, this young girl, happening to please the fancy of one of the officers of Archambaud, mayor of the palace to Dagobert I. he bought her for a trifling sum, and made a present of her to his master. The child, being of a very agreeable figure, Archambaud made her cup-bearer at his table. As this young slave advanced in age, the beauty and graces of her person appeared more conspicuously. In short, her charming face, majestic shape, and noble deportment, soon attracted the looks and sighs of the no-

blemen who dined with Archambaud ; nor was he himself insensible of her charms ; but his heart soon paid to this fair slave the tribute of love. The first pledge of which was his making her a present of her liberty. He himself became her slave, and his sole satisfaction was in seeing, hearing, and admiring the charming Batilda ; but there was so much dignity, as well as so much sweetness in her behaviour, that struck the mayor of the palace with awe. Every time he opened his mouth to declare to her his love, he closed it again without being able to say any thing. He could only sigh ; and one kind look from Batilda conveyed the greatest satisfaction to his heart. At length, his wife dying, he thought he could now make known his passion to her, without giving offence to her virtue. He offered her his hand : But Batilda, ever mindful of what was due to her birth, thought any other hand than that of a monarch unworthy of her acceptance ; and therefore had the address to elude the proposal of Archambaud, without, at the same time, appearing to despise him. But, as he redoubled his importunities, she retired to a house at a distance from his, which she never left till she was informed of his having taken another wife. At length, Clovis II. king of France,

having

having seen her, was so charmed with her beauty, that he demanded her in marriage of the mayor of the palace, and espoused her. Her beauty raised her to the throne, and her virtue made her admired there. Queen Batilda was a mother to the poor, and the consolation of the distressed; in short, she shewed her power only by her beneficence. After the death of Clovis, she was declared regent of the kingdom; when the duties of religion, and the affairs of state engrossed her whole attention. None but persons of ability and integrity were admitted into offices of state. Her respect for the bishops was so great that she did nothing without their advice; but she was the dupe of her own confidence. Sigebbrand, who filled the see of Paris, concealed the most boundless ambition under the cloak of extraordinary devotion. This proud prelate, to make himself of the greater importance, suffered his frequent visits to the regent, and her kindness to him, to be misinterpreted. The nobility became jealous of him, and caused him to be assassinated. Batilda, informed of the injurious reports which this wicked man had occasioned with regard to her, resolved to abandon the world, and devote the remainder of her days to God. She retired to the abbey of Chelles

which she had founded, where she lived and died in the exercise of every virtue. The church hath placed her among the number of their saints.



The infirmities of SIBILLA, the wife of CHARLEMAGNE, occasioned the establishment of the German empire.

PEPIN the Short had the courage to put the crown of France upon his head, and the power to maintain it there. Charlemagne and Carloman his sons shared his estates. Some of the nobles, thinking the youth of the two new kings afforded a favourable opportunity of shaking off the yoke which Pepin had imposed on them, took up arms, seized Aquitaine and Gascony : But Charles, active, vigilant, and courageous, hastened to give them battle ; he came up with them, dispersed their army, seized them, and loaded them with chains. This victory announced his great talents for war ; and made all the monarchs of Europe tremble. Didier, king of the Lombards in Italy, had a design of taking up arms against him, but fear made him solicit an alliance with him whom he had intended to attack.

attack. He offered him Sibilla, his daughter, in marriage ; and having gained over to his interest queen Bertha, the mother of Charlemagne, who he knew had great influence over her son, Charles espoused Sibilla in spite of the Efforts of pope Stephen IV. who knowing how contrary this alliance would be to his interest, employed many invectives and menaces to prevent it being carried into execution. Sibilla was subject to some infirmities which soon disgusted her husband, and he put her away, and married Hildegard, who was of an illustrious family at Sueves. Carloman died about this time at Samancy, near to Laon, leaving two sons, Pepin and Siagre ; but all the French, struck with the virtues of Charles, would have him for their king. Gerberge, the widow of Carloman, fearing lest her two sons should meet with the same unhappy fate which many sons of kings had experienced, fled with them to the king of Lombardy.

Didier thinking that this step of the queen would afford him a pretext for revenging the affront put upon his daughter, received her with great satisfaction. He raised troops, and endeavoured to form such alliances as might be capable of seconding him in his enterprizes. When he thought all his measures were well and properly

concerted, he applied to the pope to crown the sons of Carloman kings of Austrasia. The chair of St. Peter was at that time filled by Adrian I. a resolute and able Man. The Pontiff, knowing of the difference subsisting between Charles and Didier, positively refused to comply with the request of the Lombardian king, and sent to demand Succours of Charles. Didier marched with a formidable army to Rome, and laid siege to that City. Charles put himself at the head of the French, routed the Lombards, who attempted to oppose his passage across the Alps, fell upon their already affrighted army, cut them in pieces, pursued Didier who had escaped into Pavia, made him prisoner, assumed the crown and title of king of the Lombards, and confirmed to the pope the donation of Pepin his father, reserving to himself the title and sovereign power of Rome, and over the rest of Italy. His power, his zeal for religion, and his respect for those that occupied the chair of St. Peter, inclined the Pope to proclaim him emperor of the West. At length pope Leo III. took the opportunity when that monarch was on a visit at Rome, to place the imperial crown on his head, and to proclaim him emperor of the Romans, which was executed with the unanimous consent of the people and the

the clergy. This was the origin of the German empire.



The discovery of Salt in Asia was owing to a Can of the Tartars dropping a little piece of meat on the ground.

THE use of salt, if we may credit the history of the Tartars, was long unknown in Asia: The Tartars were entirely ignorant of it's qualities before the reign of Taunai-Can: That prince being one day a hunting, after killing a good deal of game, grew so hungry that he stopped in the middle of a field, and ordered his attendants to kindle a fire and roast some of it. A little piece happening by accident to fall on the ground, his appetite was too keen to allow him time for wiping it nicely, and on eating it he found it more agreeable to the taste than the rest, it having a small flavour of salt. As he was a person of great merit, after reflecting a little on this discovery, he caused a quantity of the earth to be taken and delivered to some ingenious men, who, by proper experiments,

ments, attained to the method of making salt; and from that time the Tartars used it with their food. They say that this Can made several other useful discoveries in natural history.

The world is principally indebted for improvements in arts and sciences to great princes.



A young Girl going every morning to draw water from a fountain, was the cause of a Tartarean prince taking up arms against, and destroying, the Khan his father.

OGUS, the son of Cara-Khan, gave from his infancy certain indications of his future greatness. Custom, which usually adds something of the marvellous to the births of great men, gave out that this prince came into the world with his face shining like the splendor of the sun. All the actions of this Infant, if historians are to be credited, were prodigies. He was hardly out of his infant state, before the neighbouring monarchs, informed of his merit, offered their daughters in marriage to him. Cara,
his

his father, consulting rather his own interest than the inclinations of his son, forced him to espouse the daughter of Cavar, who possessed immense dominions; and whose hatred was as dangerous to him as his friendship was useful. This marriage, contracted by compulsion, was not happy: Ogus could not endure his wife. In vain did she employ the most tender caresses to engage his affections; all her fondnesses were, in the eyes of Ogus, insupportable importunities, and served only to increase his aversion to her.

This prince being one day a hunting, was excessively thirsty, and after seeking a considerable time for a spring where he might refresh himself, he espied a young girl carrying a pitcher filled with water. He approached her, and enquired where he could quench his thirst; upon which she presented to him the pitcher. The sweetness of her air, her modesty and beauty, impressed on the heart of Ogus the strongest sensations of love. His eyes greedily run over the charms of this amiable incognita: He tasted so much pleasure in viewing her, that he thought neither of his thirst nor of the water which he held in his hand. This prince was not only extremely handsome, but of so noble an air, that plainly discovered his high rank. The girl perceived (not with indifference)

the

the impression she had made on his heart. The desire of seeing him occasioned her sometimes to lift up those eyes which modesty had bent downwards. This dumb language was interrupted by the attendants of Ogus, who had been long in search of him. The girl, little accustomed to see such a number of persons, went on her way homewards. The eyes of the prince remained fixed on her as long as she remained in sight, and then he turned his head and sighed.

His officers were not at a loss to guess at the state of his mind: His sorrow, and the beauty of her whom they had just seen with him, plainly demonstrated it.

The young prince finding no pleasure but in contemplating on the unknown fair, soon quitted the chase, in order to deliver himself up entirely to the ideas which love inspired. When he was alone, his heart suffered the usual agitations of lovers. To the desire of possessing the amiable object, succeeded the fear of not seeing her any more. He recalled to mind her features and shape; and his imagination described her still more amiable than when he saw her. In this manner he passed the remainder of the day and the whole night. The next morning he took with him one of his officers, whom he thought worthy of his
con-

confidence, and returned to the place where he had seen this charming creature. After having remained there some time he saw her approaching with the pitcher in her hand. The torch of love gives light to his votaries. They perceive circumstances which are imperceptible to others. Ogus discovered that his presence caused a tender emotion in the young maiden, and that he was not indifferent to her. Thinking himself then authorised to declare his sentiments, he advanced to her and addressed her in the language which love dictated; to which she made no reply, but listened with attention to him, which was a tacit declaration of what he wanted to be informed of, and a sigh escaping her at that instant, confirmed his hopes.

The fear of being troublesome engaged him to retire; but first he told her that he should return the next day at the same hour; and a tender look from the damsel made him hope that she would also be there. He was not deceived, for he had hardly arrived before he saw her appear. At length, after several interviews they mutually declared to each other their condition. The young maiden, whose parents were shepherds, burst into tears when she learnt that her lover was the son of the Khan, and that she could not hope for
a happy

a happy union with him. Ogus, who was made inexpressibly happy by seeing a person whom he adored, shedding tears for him, thus addressed her: "You seem to think that in love you have met with your greatest misfortune, but you shall find it your highest happiness. Love fills up all that distance which prejudice has placed between mankind: I would rather renounce the crown which I am heir to, than abandon you: But I would place it on your head, as no person appears to me more worthy to wear it." They had the pleasure of thus expressing their mutual sentiments; but jealousy interrupted their happiness.

As the actions of princes are always narrowly pryed into, it was quickly known at court that Ogus disappeared every morning. His wife, persuaded that he went in pursuit of some object which had engaged his affections, jealousy took entire possession of her mind, and her whole employment now was to find out the person who had engaged the heart of her Husband. She caused him to be watched, and having learnt that it was a young shepherdess whom he went to meet, and with whom he passed all the time which he was not obliged to spend at court, she grew quite outrageous, and resolved on the destruction

struction of her rival. The first step she took was to throw herself at the feet of the Khan, to engage him to revenge her wrongs.——“ Sir, “ says she to him, you see in me the most unfortunate of women, who am come to implore “ your aid. If you have not compassion on me, “ my only resource will be to get rid of a life “ which is insupportable. What a change in “ my condition ! in my father’s palace every moment of my life was marked with new pleasures ; his ready complaisance gratified all my “ wishes ; his generous care prevented all my “ desires. The courtiers earnestly endeavoured “ to merit my favour, as being the sole support “ of their interests. In this court, whither your pressing solicitations have brought me, I find “ myself the object of the most cruel disdain. “ An ungrateful spouse, whose love I declare “ would make me compleatly happy, repays my “ tender endearments with an insupportable coldness, while he at the same time burns for another, who, by her condition, is unworthy of “ him, and still more unworthy to be my rival. “ She is, would you believe it, a contemptible “ shepherdess, to whom he goes every day to “ learn to hate me : What a disgrace would it “ be to me, and what a grief to my father, if “ I

“ I must be placed on a level with her in the
 “ Seraglio of Ogus !”

Cara-Khan, knowing how dear she was to her father, and how dangerous it would be for him to provoke him, resolved to procure her satisfaction. For this purpose he gave orders to one of his officers to seize the young shepherdes who had captivated the heart of his son, and to confine her closely in prison. She was accordingly taken into custody in returning home with her flock, and conducted to a place which was so well guarded that she could neither send or receive any intelligence by or from any person. Ogus went the next morning according to custom to the place of rendezvous, where he waited for her in vain; she did not appear. He grew uneasy, and went to the place of her abode and enquired for her, but he was answered only with sighs. At length he learned that she had suddenly disappeared, but it was not known what had befallen her. He caused her to be strictly sought after, but no discovery could be made. He then abandoned himself to excessive grief, and promised large rewards to those who should procure him intelligence of her situation.

The officer who had executed the orders of the Khan, seduced by the hopes of ingratiating himself

himself in Ogus's favour, went to him and revealed the secret of which he was the depositary.

Ogus, actuated only by his love, assembled together those who were attached to him, and flew to the place where his mistress was confined, overthrew all who opposed him, broke open the gates, and gave liberty to her who had robbed him of his. Cara-Khan was soon informed of his son's transactions, which threw him into a violent passion, and in the first transports of his rage he resolved to go against him with his guards and put him to death. As Ogus, by the sweetness of his dispositions, was universally beloved, he was soon informed of the storm which threatened him and his mistress; and as he had once before played the rebel, he did not hesitate to do the same a second time, ordered his adherents to keep upon their guard, and to defend themselves if the Khan should attack them, as against an enemy.

Cara-Khan appeared at the head of his guards, and charged the party of his son: The latter, animated by the bravery of Ogus, repulsed them, pursued them in their retreat, and entirely routed them. The Khan endeavoured in vain to rally his soldiers, and receiving himself a wound in the head, fell dead on the spot. Ogus was greatly
afflicted

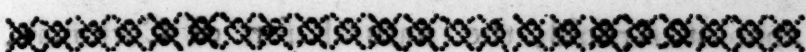
afflicted at this unhappy accident, and cursed an hundred times the victory which had been purchased with the death of his father. He buried him with all the funeral rites customarily paid to the Tartarian princes; and then hastened to put away his wife, who by her jealousy had made him a paricide, sent her back again to her father, and gave his hand and his crown to her whom alone he thought worthy of his love.

As he was a man of courage and ambition, he attacked the neighbouring states, subdued them, and made the conquest of Tartary and a part of China. At length, after a long and glorious reign, he died, leaving to his posterity a respectable name, which to this day is held in veneration throughout Tartary.



The





The love of a Lady for a certain Duke,
was the cause of CHARLES the Fat,
king of France and emperor of Ger-
many, being dethroned, and reduced to
the necessity of asking alms.

CHARLES the III, called the Fat, king of France and emperor of Germany, through treachery and cowardice, had the art of appeasing the troubles of his extensive dominions. All those whose power and courage appeared formidable to him, he caused to be assassinated; and gave immense sums to the neighbouring potentates when he knew they were preparing to attack him. He had long enjoyed, in shameful indolence, the fruit of his iniquities, when he was seized with a violent disorder which affected his intellectual faculties.

Hermengarde, the widow of Boson, king of Provence, an artful and ambitious woman, took advantage of the emperor's weakness, and prevailed on him to adopt her son, and declare him his successor. Hildegarde, sister of Charles the Fat,

Fat, vexed at finding that her brother did not appoint Arnold, the natural son of Carloman, son of Louis the Stammerer and duke of Carinthia (whom she loved to distraction) to succeed him, resolved to sacrifice every thing, even her brother himself, in order to place the crown on the head of her lover. She therefore represented to the nobles, that as Charles the Fat became daily more and more senseless, he was not any longer in a fit condition to hold the reins of government.

The Saxons, the Bavarians, the Thuringians, in an assembly of the nation, deposed Charles ; and Hildegard, by her solicitations and intrigues, procured Arnold to be proclaimed emperor. Eudes, count of Paris, took the government of France, with the title of King.

All those who the instant before gloried in a look from Charles, now abandoned him with contempt. His officers and domestics seized on his furniture and cloaths, and even turned him out of his own house. Can we be sufficiently astonished at the inconstancy of fortune ? A man who a little while before was the master of almost all christendom, who when he appeared in public was arrayed in apparel which denoted his

his dignity and power, was immediately after, forced to wander about covered with rags, and without a habitation to go to, for a morsel to satisfy his hunger.

The disorder in his intellects was not so extreme as to deprive him of a sense of his misfortunes. He lamented his unhappy fate, and asked relief of all he met, but they were deaf to the voice of compassion. Luitberg, archbishop of Mayence, alone sent him food and rayment. Arnold at length grew ashamed of with-holding from him who had been his master, a common subsistence, and allowed him the revenue of three villages. *See the history of France and Germany.*



The kingdoms of Naples and Sicily were established in consequence of a duel fought by two Norman Barons.

IN former ages, women were not more secure from the attacks of calumny than in these our days. All those to whom nature had been favourable, were calumniated, because there were always men who have boasted of their triumphs over beauty; and as the people are ever disposed

to give ear to scandal, they readily believe falsities of this kind.

A young lady of an illustrious family in Normandy, was so extremely handsome that she was spoken of every where as a miracle of beauty. She was the object of the wishes of the young nobility of her time, who all earnestly solicited her in marriage. Her reputation soon paid the tribute which is due from all fine women to calumny. William Repostel gave out that *he* had obtained of her all that men could desire of women, and which it is criminal in them to grant. This report gained credit, and those who before had been desirous of espousing her, now only sought her as a mistress.

Drongo-Osmond, brother of the young lady, informed of the scandalous reports spread by William Repostel relative to his sister, thought himself obliged to revenge this affront to his family, by seeking the life of the author of it: And being one day on a hunting party with him, he obliged him to draw, and in the conflict Repostel was slain.

As Repostel was much beloved by *Robert the Devil*, then duke of Normandy, and Osmond, was obliged to abscond; and passing into Pouille, or Gaimar, the duke de Benevent employed him
against

against the Saracens, who at that time were ravaging the coasts of Italy. The young Norman shewed so much valour in different engagements, that the duke gave him the possession of some estates in his dutchy, in order to keep him near his person.

Some time after, fifty or sixty Normans returning from Jerusalem, passed through Salerno, where they were extremely well received, on account of their countryman, who by his merit had gained the entire confidence of the duke de Benevent. While they were in this city, twenty thousand Saracens laid siege thereto. The duke not having a force sufficient to make head against so great a number, sent to propose the payment of a sum of money, which they accepted. While the Salernians were employed in collecting the price of their ransom, the Saracens entirely neglected discipline, and abandoned themselves to all manner of debauchery. The sixty Normans, accompanied by some Salernians, who were emboldened by their example, went from the city at midnight, surprised the enemy in disorder, killed a prodigious number, forced the rest to take to their ships, and remained masters of their camp, where they found immense booty, which they abandoned to the Salernians.

The duke, astonished at their valour, would have loaded them with presents; but he was still more amazed at their generosity in refusing them. He would gladly have prevailed on them to take up their residence in his territories, but finding his intreaties and offers ineffectual, he obtained their promise of returning to him again. The glory which these men acquired, excited some other Normans to go to Salerno. Their valour rendered them acceptable to all who had possessions in that country, and consequently invasions to fear. They sometimes served the Grecian emperor; at other times the pope, and sometimes the duke, and always with success. Their courage rendered them redoubtable, and their employers began to be afraid of them. The Greeks, ever perfidious, acted with injustice towards them, and drew on them their resentment. The Normans turned their arms against those who had so ungratefully rewarded their services, conquered Calabria, Pouille and Sicily, and founded a kingdom which subsisted above 150 years.



The county of Arragon is erected into a kingdom, on account of NUGMA, queen of Navarre, wife of SANCHE IV. called the Great, hindering her son GARCIA from mounting a mettlesome horse.

IT is well known with what rapidity the Mahometans subdued Asia and Africa: It is also notorious that nothing but the resolution and valour of the French and their chiefs, prevented their making a conquest of Europe. They had entered it; Spain had already submitted, and Languedoc was unable to oppose them. The facility of some conquests, excited them daily to new enterprizes, and they diffused terror where-ever they went. A man of extraordinary valour in France assembled the French together, and inspiring them with courage, marched against the Saracens, came up with and engaged them at Poitiers, and made a horrible slaughter among them, and forced the affrighted remains of their army to repass into Spain.

The descendants of those Visigoths, who, after sacking Rome under Alaric, had settled in Spain, were obliged to conceal themselves in the rocks of Asturia, to avoid the fury of the Mahometans. When they saw their conquerors weakened by the victories of Charles-Martel, they began to leave their hiding places, whither they were frequently obliged to return again: But after Charlemagne had, by force of arms, destroyed the power of the Mahometans in Spain, the Visigoths began to extend their dominion. They soon made themselves masters of Asturia entirely, to which they joined Leon. These successes emboldened the other Visigoths dispersed in the different countries of Spain. Those who were settled in Navarre chose themselves a king: The Arragons appointed a chief with the title of Count. Thus the Visigoths daily acquired new strength; and the king of Navarre, who soon became master of the county of Arragon, was powerful enough not only to oppose, but to attack the Mahometans.

Sanche IV. called the Great, filled the throne about the middle of the eleventh century. This prince divided his time between love and war. He passed the summer with his army, and the winter with Gaya his concubine, who by her exterior

exterior charms, and the accomplishments of her mind, kept constant possession of his heart. Ramir was the fruit of their mutual love. The merit of this young prince displaying itself more and more every day, gained him a great number of admirers; and the king enjoying much satisfaction in having a son so worthy of wearing the crown after him, would have espoused, with the usual solemnity, the mother of so amiable a prince, and given her the title of queen; but death prevented Gaya from enjoying those honours which the king designed for her.

Sanche was so sensibly affected by the death of his mistress, that he determined to bear her in sorrowful remembrance during life, and never to marry any other woman. But kings are less masters of their own destiny, than their subjects are; they are sometimes obliged to sacrifice their inclinations to the interest of the state. The count of Castille, who was a sovereign, had only one daughter, his heiress; and it might have been dangerous for Sanche if she had married any powerful neighbour, lest, by his succeeding to Castille and thereby augmenting his force, he should invade Navarre. Policy, therefore, influenced Sancho to break his resolution of remaining single. He espoused Nugma, the daughter

ter of the count of Castille, by whom he had two sons, Garcia and Ferdinand.

Garcia, who was of a lively, fiery disposition, addicted himself early to the most robust exercises. Horse-races, tournaments, and hunting, were his sole amusements.

Sanche, whose love for Nugma was mixed with the greatest esteem and confidence, entrusted the Care of the government to her whenever he was obliged to go to war with the Mahometans. One day, during his absence on this occasion, Garcia being inclined for a race, desired his mother to permit him to take out of the king's stables a young horse which was extremely beautiful : To which she having consented, he gave orders to the equerry to get him ready. The equerry, knowing the horse to be excessively fiery, did not comply with his orders, but went immediately to inform the queen of the danger to which the prince would be exposed in mounting an animal so difficult to be managed. Upon which information, the queen ordered the equerry not to let him have the horse. Garcia insisted on having him, was offended at being refused, and went to complain to his mother; when finding that she justified the equerry, he grew exasperated against her, and vowed that he would be revenged. Having long sought the means for
this

this purpose ; at length his malevolence suggested to him the blackest of all calumnies ; which was to give out that the queen was false to the king, and that he could produce certain proofs of it. Nugma being informed of this aspersion, was alarmed, and sending for the prince, reproached him with his crime : But this unnatural son, was so far from being affected or ashamed of his wicked conduct before her, whose presence alone should have inspired him with respect, that he took a pleasure in seeing her uneasy ; and had the effrontery to tell her to her face, she was guilty ; and leaving her, made a public declaration that she wanted to enjoin him to keep silence ; and then put the finishing stroke to this wicked invention, by informing the king, on his return home, that the queen held a criminal correspondence with the equerry ; and related such circumstances to render the story probable, that the king gave credit to it, and caused his wife to be immediately arrested, and condemned her to be burnt alive ; allowing her, however, according to the custom which ignorance had established in those times, thirty days to find out a Knight who would undertake to defend her innocence against the prince.

The accuser being the offspring of a legitimate marriage, and presumptive heir to the crown, no person dared to present himself to fight against him. The time granted to the queen was now elapsed. Every one bewailed her unhappy situation, which was all they could do for her. At length the hour of her punishment arrived; the pile was erected; the executioners conducted her from the prison to the place where she was to suffer. On her arrival she saw the apparatus of torments ready. The pile was now set on fire, and the executioners seized the queen to throw her thereon. "Hold, cries Ramir (the son of Gaya the concubine of Sanche) "I undertake
"to defend her: Let her accuser come forth."

The populace, who had been afraid to shew their sorrow, loudly testified their joy. They gathered round the generous Ramir, and every tongue was employed in proclaiming his praise. The king was immediately informed of this event, and Garcia ordered to present himself before Ramir: But that prince, like all base and cowardly persons who are emboldened when they find that none dare oppose them, trembled when he knew he was to fight; and his cowardice induced him to do what remorse could not obtain from him. He went and fell at his father's feet, confessed his
guilt,

guilt, and rendered that justice which was due to the innocence of the queen. We may judge the degree of joy which Sanche experienced on finding his wife innocent, by the grief he felt in believing her guilty. He went himself to loose her chains, and to give the public authentic testimony of her virtue. Full of just indignation against his son, he condemned him to the same punishment which was prepared for the queen. But this virtuous lady, whose generosity cannot be sufficiently admired, content with her own justification, begged that her son might be spared, assuring the king that his compliance would be the only means to make her forget her late sufferings. To make her sorrows plead for him who had occasioned them, was the height of generosity ; it was carrying maternal affection beyond all credibility. The tears of Nugma, at the same time that they procured the pardon of Garcia, increased the hatred and contempt of the public for this unnatural son.

Sanche granted the queen's request in favour of her son ; but he thought he could not bestow on the generous Ramir a recompence more worthy of him than the county of Arragon, which he erected into a kingdom about the year 1035, and ceded it to him.



The beauty of a young Turk, who lived at Antioch, is the occasion of cruel wars between England and France.

A PILGRIM of Amiens, armed all Europe against Asia. The christians, at his persuasion, went to drive the Mahometans from the holy places where the mysteries of Redemption were accomplished. Piety gave birth to the project; but prudence was wanting in the execution of it. The chiefs, forgetting their first design, thought of nothing but conquering states; and the soldiers, badly disciplined, employed themselves wholly in pillaging and massacreing. Those who made any conquest were envied and hated by others. The christians, by their divisions and imprudence, gave the Mahometans an opportunity of easily retaking Palestine from them. At length, seeing themselves threatened with intire ruin, they solicited succours from Europe. St. Bernard preached up a new crusade. He began by perusading Louis the Young, king of France; and great numbers after the king's example took up

up the cross. It is affirmed that St. Bernard, who had made great provision for it, one day as he was preaching at Vézelay in Burgundy, distributed so much of it that he was obliged to cut his robe to pieces, and that the stuff failed him. —He afterwards went into Germany, and persuaded the emperor Conrad III. also to take the cross.

At length the princes marched, and incredible numbers followed them, insomuch that a distaff and spindle were sent to those who refused to go to fight against the enemies of their religion. Eleonora de Guienne, either from love or complaisance, accompanied her husband. Louis the Young, arrived at Constantinople the beginning of October 1147, where Manuel Commene, the Grecian emperor, received him with magnificence due to his rank. He then passed the Hellespont, and defeated an army of Mussulmen on the borders of the Meandre; but dividing his army, he was defeated, and obliged to fly to Antioch, of which place Raimond, the uncle of Eleonora, was then sovereign.

The queen, struck with the beauty of a young Turk, named Saladin, who had embraced christianity, and was then at the court of Raimond, prevailed on Louis the Young to stay at Antioch

to

to refresh himself after the fatigues of the war. The oftener she saw Saladin, the more was she enamoured with him. The queen being unable to subdue her passion, and knowing that her rank exacted too great a deference on the part of the young Turk, to allow of his declaring the sentiments she might have inspired him with, resolved to make such advances as might embolden him. At length Saladin understood her meaning, and proceeded according to her wishes.

Eleonora thus making herself amends for the disagreeableness of so troublesome and unfortunate a voyage, was unwilling to return to France, whither her lover could not follow her. In order to delay her departure, she gave ear to the solicitations of her uncle, who had more tenderness for her than what arises merely from friendship. Raimond, guided by his passion, had several times, when Louis was ready to set out, prevailed on him to defer his departure. But at last, that monarch, knowing how necessary his presence was in his own dominions, returned thither, notwithstanding the solicitations of Raimond; and the queen was obliged to sacrifice her lover to her duty by leaving him.

The conduct of Eleonora, in spite of her precautions, had not escaped the notice of every body;

body; and some of the courtiers were so indiscreet as to reveal the affair to Louis. This prince believing himself dishonoured, dissolved the marriage with Eleonora, under pretence of consanguinity, and returned her dowry, which indeed he could not keep.

Henry II. king of England, less delicate than Louis the Young, thinking there was no disgrace in being the husband of a lady who had Guienne and Languedoc for her portion, married Eleonora: By which alliance he was master of England, Normandy, Maine, Anjou, Touraine, Languedoc and Guienne. Urged by his wife, and emboldened by his power, he now carried on a vigorous war against Louis the Young: And his successors following his example, were almost continually at war with the kings of France. Is it not very extraordinary that the galantries of a young Turk at Antioch should have been the means of putting the French and English into such a fury against each other, as to occasion the destruction of a million of men on both sides.

EDWARD



EDWARD *the confessor*, king of England, making a vow of chastity, occasions the conquest of England by the Normans.

THE Britons, who had long resisted the efforts of the Romans, were easily subdued by the Anglo-Saxons. The latter also submitted to the Danes. Canute, called *the Great*, conquered England in 1017; when the Anglo-Saxons were so severely treated, that when an Englishman met a Dane, he was obliged to stop till the Dane had passed him. After the death of Hardi-Canut, in 1041, the Anglo-Saxons shook off the Danish yoke, and conferred the crown on Edward, called the Confessor. This Saxon was weak, indolent, and, in a word, incapable of establishing a tottering throne. The nobility of the kingdom daily increased their own power at the expence of his.

Count Goodwin, had arrived at such a pitch of greatness, as to be more feared and more regarded than the king. It was he alone who conferred

ferred rewards, and inflicted punishments. Immense riches enabled him to support exorbitant expences, and to attach to himself a great number of persons who knew no duty but that which their interest dictated. Edward perceived how dangerous a man Goodwin was, but had not resolution enough to exert his power in opposition to this ambitious subject. He both hated and feared him; and was so extremely weak, that he dared not refuse giving his hand to Editha, the earl's daughter, though he had not the least affection for her. Edward, in order that Goodwin might not know the disgust he had against his daughter, borrowed the aid of religion, and made a vow of chastity. The artful Goodwin penetrated the sentiments of the king with respect to him; but he dissembled, the better to encrease his influence: And so far from being offended at his majesty's dislike to his daughter, that, on the contrary, he considered it as a certain indication of his own future grandeur; flattering himself that Edward would leave no heirs, by which means he might put the crown on his own head after the death of the king.

England had at that time a formidable neighbour; which was William duke of Normandy, son of Robert, surnamed the *Devil*, and of the
daughter

daughter of a furrier of Falaise, named *Harlote*. This name, which was no other than *Charlotte*, badly pronounced in those barbarous times, was imagined by the English to signify a *Prostitute*, being willing to annex infamy to the name of the man's mother who treated them with the utmost rigour. They called William, by way of derision, the *Son of a Harlot*. They usually called bastards, the *Sons of Harlots*; and prostitutes *Harlots*; which appellation is in use to this day. But to resume my subject.

William, being acknowledged in his father's life-time as lawful heir to the dutchy of Normandy; by his address and valour opposed those who attempted to dispute his right thereto, and made all his neighbours tremble. And being informed of what passed in England, he went thither with a design of examining the strength of the kingdom, and to see whether the discontents of the king, and the ambition of the earl, might afford him an opportunity of seizing the English crown. William being arrived at the court of London, he endeavoured to gain the confidence of the king, and to learn from him the situation of affairs in England. Edward presently informed William how much he hated Goodwin, and of his fears lest the crown should descend to the
count,

count, or his heirs, after his death. The duke of Normandy, upon this information, proposed to Edward to adopt him; and promised, in return, to use his utmost endeavours to frustrate the designs of Goodwin. In short, this politic Norman so artfully covered his ambitious views with the veil of friendship, that he deceived the weak and credulous Edward to such a degree, as to persuade him that the proposal he made was merely from a motive of calming his fears, and seconding his desires. He obtained what he had solicited for, and returned to Normandy in order to make preparations for putting his projects in execution.

Some writers assert, that Edward made a will, in favour of the duke of Normandy; but it appears that this will, whether real or pretended, was only a pretext which William made use of to render himself sovereign of England; and that the troubles and divisions at that time subsisting in England, were the only motives which engaged him to so bold an enterprize. It is incredible to think he would have attempted it, if he had not formed a party in that island in his favour. The Danes, who were very numerous there, and who saw, with chagrin, the descendants of Canute deprived of the crown, and the
Anglo-

Anglo-Saxons re-established on the throne, promised, without doubt, their assistance to William who was of Danish extraction. The historians of that time, having given but little light into this affair, we are obliged to have recourse to conjectures.

On the death of Edward, which happened soon after, the English unanimously proclaimed Harold, the son of Goodwin, king; his father having died before Edward. William immediately assembled his troops, embarked at St. Valery, landed on the coast of Suffex, and soon after defeated and slew Harold in battle at Hastings, who had taken up arms in defence of his rights. The conqueror marched to London, where he caused himself to be proclaimed king. The English revolted in vain. He who had conquered them, knew how to keep them in subjection. Some affirm that he treated them with too much severity; but he began his reign with mildness, and yet every day some new sedition was discovered. When he proceeded to severity, the English contented themselves with murmuring, but dared not to revolt. Before we pass judgment on men, we ought to examine into the motives of their actions.

A Persian

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*A Persian of mean birth, forgetting, when in prosperity, his former condition, is the cause of GENGIS-CAN, ravaging Persia and India.*

**G**Engis-Can, after having conquered all Tartary, and the greatest part of China, being now sixty years of age was willing to repose himself.

Content with the glory which his extraordinary victories had merited, he aspired after that which all great princes know how to acquire, by causing the arts, sciences, and commerce to flourish. To put this happy project in execution, he sent ambassadors to Mahommed, the Carismin, who, possessing Persia, Carefen, and part of India, was one of the most powerful sovereigns in the world. The Ambassadors of Gengis-Can proposed to Mahommed an alliance between him and their master, who was desirous of living in as strict an union with him as though he had been his son. These were the terms offered by the ambassadors, according to Albugasi-Bavadur-Can, (one of the descendants of Gengis-Can) in his history

history of the Tartars. Mahommed, who was not ignorant of the great conquests which the Tartar had lately made, accepted, with joy, the proposed alliance; and there was so perfect an union established between the two empires (says an Arabian historian) that private persons might have carried gold and silver in their hands, from one empire to the other, without the least danger of loss. This good understanding, so desirable between powerful princes, was interrupted by the vanity of a private person, whom fortune had unjustly raised above his deserts. The event, as related by the Arabs, was as follows.

The Moguls, subjects of Gengis-Can, still preserved the custom of the antient Scythians, in dwelling only in wooden huts, of which they changed their situation as often as they pleased. Their uncultivated manners rendered their wants but very few; and as the money they had seized in their conquests was of very little use to them, they gave a good deal of it for meer trifles, which brought a great number of merchants into their country. Gengis-Can, who was informed of all that passed in his dominions, perceived that his subjects would soon find themselves in a miserable condition if they continued to distribute their gold and silver in that manner; and that



the only way to preserve plenty in his territories, was to excite the Moguls to go themselves with merchandise to foreign countries. Finding several of the Moguls disposed to follow his advice, he ordered them to go into the states of Mahomed, and caused three officers of his court to accompany them, whom he sent in quality of Ambassadors to his ally, to whom he wrote a very obliging letter, praying that he would pay the same regard to his subjects, as he did to the Persians who came to traffic in Tartary, promising that he would always act towards him as a good father, and intreating him to continue his friendship, as the only means of rendering both their empires flourishing, and encreasing their mutual glory.

The ambassadors and the Mogul merchants, being arrived at the town of Otrar, on the frontiers of Persia, they went to pay their compliments to the governor. This man, from a mean condition had attained to offices of dignity. The odious talents he possessed of seducing youth, and engaging them to forget their duty and honor, had raised him to an high station. One of the merchants who had known him in his former situation, and who had been his intimate friend, thought he might, without any disrespect, call him

him by the name he bore when they were intimates: But the governor presently shewed how much he was above the rank he then held; he blushed on account of his birth, and was angry with him who brought it to his remembrance. The great Trajan ridiculed those who complimented him on his illustrious birth.

The haughty Persian committed the merchant and all the Moguls, who came to compliment him, to prison; and immediately sent a courier to Mahommed to inform him that there were certain strangers arrived at Otrar, some of whom called themselves the Ambassadors of Gengis-Can, and others merchants; but that he looked on them as persons charged with the execution of some dangerous plot, which prudence demanded should be timely defeated. The king, without any other information, sent him an order to put them all to death, which was immediately done; and the governor of Otrar, adding avarice to cruelty, seized their effects.

In spite of the precautions he had taken that all might be killed; one of the merchants had the good fortune to escape, and went and informed Gengis-Can of the treatment his Ambassadors had met with. The Tartar, transported with fury at this news, gave orders to his

His officers to assemble his troops immediately; and entering Persia in the year 1218, he spread desolation with fire and sword; cut in pieces all the armies which were sent to oppose him, and destroyed all the towns through which he passed. The first victim of his rage was Ottar; the governor of which, who was the cause of this bloody war, he ordered to be loaded with chains, dragged round the walls, and then to have his brains beat out with clubs. The conqueror in a short time subdued all the countries east and south of the Caspian Sea, penetrated into India, which he reduced to his obedience, and made himself master of Persia. Mahommed fled from province to province, and died abandoned; and of all the riches he had possessed, nothing was left him but the cloaths on his back, which were all in rags; and in those he was interred.

Gengis-Khan was now master of the greatest empire ever recorded in history. This Tartar conquered an extent of country above eighteen hundred leagues from east to west, and more than a thousand from north to south. But his history is a mere series of cruelties, as he did nothing but ravage and destroy. He divided his vast estates between his four sons; each of whom was one of the most potent princes of the world.

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This



This great conqueror died in the year 1227, aged sixty-five years.



**HENRY II.** *king of England, becomes enamoured with ALICE of France, who was promised to his son RICHARD I. and this amour is the occasion of great troubles between France and England.*

**H**ENRY II. as has been observed in another place, possessed so much territory in France, that the king, with reason, feared lest he should attempt to seize the crown. *Louis the Young*, who then filled the throne of France, thought, that to prevent this, the most secure method would be to raise commotions in the family of the English monarch. For this purpose he blew up the sparks of ambition in the minds of Henry's sons, to such a degree, that they took up arms against their father. He went farther, and supplied them with men and arms; and thus accustoming these tygers to carnage, they at length began to thirst after the blood of their father.

father. What mischiefs have political views been productive of !

The king of France knowing the ambitious disposition of Henry's sons, thought it would be easy for him to excite them to rebel against their father whenever his interest might require it ; and the more effectually to put it in their power to be serviceable to him, he contrived a treaty to be entered into between their father and them ; by which Henry engaged to cede to them a part of his estates. He associated his eldest son Henry with him in the government of England ; Richard, his second son, had the county of Poitou ; Geoffry, his third son, had the dutchy of Britanny ; John Lackland, his fourth son, was too young to be included in this treaty ; nor had he any appenage given him. This agreement being made, Louis, in order to attach the young princes to his interest, gave in marriage to the two eldest, his daughters Margaret and Alice. But the latter being too young for wedlock, was committed to the care of the king of England, till she should be marriageable. She was beautiful, and the king had all the tenderness for her which old men have for amiable children : But when she was arrived at that age when the charms of women display themselves, he regarded her with

other eyes than those of friendship. His heart was soon inflamed, and his passion for her daily increasing, became at length so violent, that the consideration of what he owed to his son, to the young princess, and to himself, was not capable of restraining it within due bounds. He violated the chastity of Alice. This crime, the commission of which ought to have filled him with shame, served only to increase his desires. He would now be indebted to the complaisance of the young princess for that which he had obtained by violence; and Alice, in order to bury in silence a crime which she was not guilty of, now rendered herself culpable by compliance.

She had no sooner given Henry a power over her, than she was obliged to be the slave of his weakness and caprice. Henry, mistrustful and jealous, the failings of old men, obliged her to keep close confined to her apartment, and to see no company but him and her female attendants. As the actions of sovereigns cannot long remain secret, the intercourse between Henry and Alice was soon known; and the rumour presently reached France. Louis the Young, exasperated to hear the reputation of his daughter so greatly injured, sent to desire Henry either to send back  
 Alice



Alice to him, or marry her to prince Richard, according to his promise. But Henry loved her too well to part from her; and therefore gave evasive answers to the ambassadors. Louis the Young, not doubting the truth of the report, assembled his troops with an intent to go himself, and force his daughter out of the hand of her ravisher. The pope, who had a design of reconciling these two kings for the succour of the Holy Land, sent a legate to them, who engaged them both to meet at Ivri, to explain the subject of their mutual complaints. Louis the Young, informed the legate of the dishonour Henry had brought on the house of France, in retaining his daughter, and concluded with saying, that if he did not restore her to him, or marry her to Richard, he would unite all his forces and go himself to claim her. Henry having no plausible reason to alledge, promised, in order to extricate himself from this embarrassment, to marry her to Richard as soon as possible. But he still contrived to amuse Louis the Young, so that that king died before Henry performed his promise.

This death caused much joy to the king of England, who seeing the throne of France filled by Phillip Augustus, then very young,

flattered himself that he should not be restrained in his amours. But he was mistaken; the courage and resolution of the young French monarch were superior to his bodily strength. He summoned Henry to deliver up his sister, threatening to ravage his states immediately on non-compliance. The eldest son of Henry dying at this time, without issue, Phillip Augustus demanded, with the same menaces, that the widow, who was likewise his sister, should be restored to him. Henry now found himself obliged to comply with these demands; he would otherwise have incurred the contempt of all the powers of Europe, by supporting an unjust war. But the conquests of Saladin, who had just taken Jerusalem, extricated him from his embarrassment. Pope Clement III. engaged the two monarchs to suspend their private quarrels, and pass into Palestine to deliver the holy places from the profanation of the infidels. They saw each other at Gisors, and mutually promised to think of nothing but the crusade.

This peace was soon broken. Richard, Henry's son, having seen Alice in a journey which he made to England, was so struck with her beauty, that he made the most pressing instances to his father to consent to their marriage;  
and

and upon his refusal, he applied to Phillip Augustus to join with him in taking up arms against his father. The king of France complied with Richard's request, and entering the states of Henry in a hostile manner, took several towns. Henry preferring his love to his honour, or to the interests of his people, resolved to die rather than give up Alice; and accordingly levied troops to oppose Phillip. But he was defeated, and obliged to sue for peace; the first article of which was, that he should deliver up Alice to Richard. The mortification he suffered at being forced to yield to another, a woman whom he loved to distraction, was so violent, that it occasioned his death.

Richard, by the death of his father, becoming king of England, and master of the destiny of Alice, promised Phillip Augustus that he would marry her, on his return from the Holy Land. In consequence of which promise, the king of France surrendered to him the places he had taken from his father in the last war; and Richard went over to his kingdom; in order to make the necessary preparations for the croisade. Immediately on his arrival, his mother Eleanor related to him what had passed



between Alice and the late king his father, and even added, that the French princess had had a child by Henry; and that therefore he could not either in conscience or honour marry her; and advised him to take to wife Berengere of Navarre, daughter of Don Garcia. Richard, sacrificing his love to his duty, followed the counsel of his mother; and requested her to go herself to Navarre, to demand Berengere in marriage, which she did.

While Eleanor was on her voyage to Navarre, Richard hastened the assembling of the soldiers for the croisade. At length he departed and sailed to Messina in Sicily, where Phillip Augustus had arrived before him. The king of England imagining that his reason for not espousing the king of France's sister would appear as a mere invention, he resolved to seek an occasion of coming to an open rupture with him. For this purpose he affronted several of Phillip Augustus's officers, hoping that the king would take their part, and that a quarrel would ensue between them: but Phillip Augustus behaved with such prudence as defeated Richard's project. And Richard being informed that his mother was just on the point of arriving at Messina, with Berengere, he was obliged to acquaint Phillip with:

with his motives for breaking off the match with Alice.

The noise which Henry's passion for the princess of France had made, justified Richard's refusal; but nothing could extenuate his fault in concealing from Phillip Augustus, the resolution he had taken in that affair: and the king of France considered the king of England's sending for Berengere into Sicily, to espouse her before his face, as an outrageous insult. He would immediately have made him felt the effects of his anger, had not his chief officers represented to him, the injury which such a rupture would occasion to the cause of christianity. He submitted to these reasons, and accepted the proposals offered by Richard, which were, that he would give up Alice to him, together with her dowry and two thousand silver marks, sterling money, to be paid within five years. Phillip Augustus then went to Palestine; but not being able to endure the presence of Berengere, who continually awakened in his mind the insult offered to his sister, he soon returned to France.

As soon as he arrived there, he sent to summon the person who was regent of England in the absence of Henry, to surrender Alice and her fortune to him; and, upon receiving

a refusal, he levied a powerful army, in order to go and procure himself justice. But he was prevented by the grandees of the kingdom, who represented to him that he would injure his reputation, by breaking the treaty by which he was bound under pain of excommunication, not to undertake any thing against any one engaged in the croisade, or on their property, upon any pretence whatever.

These arguments stifled his resentment for a time; but it broke out as soon as he heard of Richard's being taken prisoner as he was travelling through the territories of Hungary.

Phillip Augustus proposed to John Lackland that he would cause him to be proclaimed king of England, if he would marry Alice. John, who had already formed designs upon the throne, accepted the proposal of Phillip, and going over to him, entered into a treaty with him. After which John returned to England in order to get himself proclaimed king; and Phillip entered Normandy, where he took several places. The English and Normans still faithful to Richard, opposed his enemies, and employed every method of Negotiation to deliver him from captivity; and at length he was set at liberty, and returning to England was received with acclamations



mations of joy. A little after his return, consulting his courage rather than his power, instead of complying with Phillip's request, he resolved to sustain the War against him; but he was defeated in several rencountres, and obliged at last to surrender Alice and her dowry. She was afterwards married to the duke de Ponthieu.

Some English historians have been so unjust as to treat Phillip Augustus as a perjurer, and as a king without honour, because he endeavoured to force away his sister, even during the captivity of Richard.



*The jealousy which the wife of a merchant of Florence occasioned in the breast of an Illyrian princess, causes the destruction of the republic of Ragusa.*

**R**AGUSA\* was formerly a flourishing city. Its inhabitants, united by wise laws, and

\* Situated on the borders of the Adriatic sea.

reciprocal friendship, lived together in an agreeable ease and happy tranquility. The election of magistrates was carried on without cabal; and by merit alone were dignities obtained. No seditious discourses were there propagated by jealousy; the people were obedient to the voice of those whom they had chosen to rule over them.

The union of the citizens, and the prudence of their governors, rendered this republic formidable to her neighbours. The Turks in vain united all their forces against them. Sandal, sovereign of Illyrium\*, tried every means to reduce them to his obedience; but all his attempts were productive only of disgrace to himself; the Ragusans, ever united, were invincible. Caution, dictated by wisdom, secured them from any surprise. This republic in short, which never meditated conquests, but whose only care was to defend itself, seemed to promise a very lasting duration. But all things have an end: It was overthrown by the most trifling cause, at a time when it appeared to be the most firmly established: The manner as follows:

A Florentine merchant, who went with his wife, to carry merchandize to Clytia, where

\* Now Esclavonia.

prince Sandal then resided, was more intent upon his traffic than on the conduct of his wife; who on her side thought of nothing but making herself amends for the restraint in which her husband kept her at Florence. She soon became the talk of the whole city. The men praised her wit and beauty, and the women decried her as full of imperfections. Prince Sandal, in order to form a judgment, of this difference in opinion, sought an opportunity of seeing and conversing with the Italian female; which having soon obtained, he decided in favour of the merchant's wife. She appeared so amiable in his eyes, that he conceived the most violent passion for her, and tried every means of possessing her. His treasures were open; and this woman who had been accustomed, in traffic, to dispose of any thing for money, granted to the prince what he desired of her.

This artful Italian found the means of captivating the heart of her lover to such a degree, that he found no pleasure but in her company, and every thing that deprived him of it were objects of his aversion. The princess his wife the daughter of Eleazer, ruler of Servia, was the first who perceived this alteration in him. She had been several years married to Sandal, and



and till the arrival of the Italian, had experienced all that satisfaction which flows from a happy marriage. A prince, who, from his infancy, had discovered a virtuous disposition, was the fruit of their mutual love. They both employed themselves in improving the talents of him who was one day to succeed them. Sandal, when fatigued with the affairs of government, used to amuse himself with his wife and son; lavishing on his boy the caresses of a tender father, and bestowing on the mother the attentions of a faithful and affectionate husband. These were the most agreeable employments of this prince. But he became all on a sudden, gloomy and thoughtful. His lips, which used never to open but to say pleasing things to his wife, now only address her with words of harshness or indifference. His eyes which were always expressive of tenderness, were now filled only with anger. In vain she wept, sigh'd, and lamented: Her sorrow afforded him pleasure. This princess, reflecting on her own conduct, found it irreproachable; but on examining into that of her husband, she learned that another had possession of his heart. In order to regain his affections, she employed caresses and complaints; but her utmost endeavours proving fruitless, she  
lost

lost all patience, and giving way to her anger, and inspiring her son with the same passion, she took him with her to Ragusa, related her misfortune to the Ragusans, and seeing them affected by her sufferings, she presented her son to them, saying at the same time, “ Ye valiant  
 “ warriors and generous men, you see before  
 “ you an unfortunate princess, who is come,  
 “ with her son, to throw herself into your arms,  
 “ and to implore your assistance against an un-  
 “ natural father, against a barbarous husband,  
 “ who thirsteth after the blood of his son, and  
 “ of his wife. I have recourse to you, believing  
 “ you alone capable of stopping the progress  
 “ of iniquity, and protecting the innocent.  
 “ Ragusa contains within it's walls none but  
 “ persons of virtue : If I was capable of being  
 “ otherwise, I should not have dared to enter  
 “ therein. My misfortunes, I perceive, affect  
 “ you, and, I flatter myself, that the crimes of  
 “ my unworthy spouse, also irritate you against  
 “ him. I am your fellow citizen ; my virtue,  
 “ my confidence in you, give me a right so to  
 “ be.”

The senate assembled, and presented the princess and her son with the freedom of the city; and  
 appointed

appointed a sum for their maintenance, suitable to their rank.

Sandal being informed of all that passed at Ragusa, and fearing lest he should be blamed by other sovereigns for suffering his wife and son to live on the alms of the republic; he sent ambassadors to Ragusa to demand them. But as they would not return to him, the senate refused to deliver them up; which, exasperating Sandal, he took up arms against them. The Ragusans made preparations to oppose him, and appointed the young prince their chief. The citizens offered him their lives and fortunes, and taking an oath of fidelity to him, they marched under his command against his father, who was defeated and forced to fly. The young prince entered Ragusa in triumph; but the advantage he made of his victory discovered his ingratitude; for he obliged the citizens to obey him agreeable to the oath they had taken, and bringing foreign troops imperceptibly into the city, caused himself to be acknowledged sovereign.

Mahomet II. a little while after besieged Ragusa when the inhabitants, discontented with their government, defended themselves very indifferently, and the city was taken: But the conquerors suffered them to be governed by their



their ancient laws, on condition of their paying an annual tribute. And Ragusa is at this day tributary to the Turks.



*The curiosity of the duke of ORLEANS who wanted to know one of the persons masked at a ball, occasions the death of many nobles; and causes CHARLES VI. king of France to become frantic.*

CHARLES the VIth was of so gloomy and melancholy a disposition, that all the courtiers strove to outdo each other in contriving means to amuse him. Nothing was to be seen at court but concerts, balls, tilting, and the like; in short every day was distinguished by some new diversion. Queen Blanche gave a ball at her hotel in the suburb of St. Marceau. Hongrimen de Janfay the king's master of the horse, invented a masquerade representing savages, or wild men, whose habits were of linen, upon which very fine tow was fixed with pitch to imitate Hair. This uncouth kind of dress appeared very agreeable in those unpolished times, and

and was so much boasted of at court, that, the king demanded to see it; with which he was so well pleased, that he determined to be present at the masquerade. It was then settled that the king dressed like a savage, should enter the ball-room holding five other savages in chains, which was accordingly executed.

When the savages were entered, the king loosened them that they might dance, and went and seated himself on the knees of the dutchess of Berry, who was extremely beautiful. At this instant, the duke of Orleans arrived; who being astonished at any person's taking so great a liberty with the dutchess of Berry, ordered his pages to bring their flambeaux, in order that he might discover who this mask was. One of the pages having held his torch too near the savages who were dancing, set fire to the dresses, which, being made of combustible materials were instantly in flames. The musicians ceased, and nothing was heard but the most lamentable cries. One among the sufferers so far forgot his own distress as to cry out *Save the King*. The dutchess of Berry suspecting that he was the person who sat on her knees, covered him with her robe, and saved his habit from catching fire. All the noblemen who were in the  
savages

savages dress were burnt to death except one, who recollecting that he had seen not far off a large tub of water, ran and threw himself into it.

This unhappy news was soon spread throughout Paris. The people who loved their King, believing that he was dead, uttered the most sorrowful lamentations: but Charles, in order to satisfy them, mounted on horseback next day, went accompanied by a great number of gentlemen to return thanks to God, at the church of Notre Dame. He caused the house where the accident happened, to be razed to the ground, and founded the chapel of Orleans in church of the Celestines, to pray for the souls of those who perished by this catastrophe.

The danger to which the King had been exposed, affected his brain: He imagined he had phantoms, or precipices continually before his eyes. In short, from that time till his death, he continued in a melancholy and languishing condition. This event happened in the year 1393.





*Some english noblemen laughing at the complaisance of EDWARD the III<sup>d</sup>. to the countess of SALISBURY, occasions the establishment of the order of the garter, about the year 1343.*

**T**HE countess of Salisbury was one of the most amiable women of her time. To all the exterior graces of her person were joined an extraordinary vivacity of understanding, an admirable penetration, and inexpressible sweetness of temper, and an incomparable modesty. These qualities added to her birth, would no doubt have entitled her to hold the first rank at court; but besides that she preferred rural amusements to pomp and grandeur, she thought it inconsistent with her duty to give herself up to the noisy pleasures of a court, while her husband was deprived of liberty. He being a prisoner in France.

This amiable countess, therefore, remained at Salisbury castle employed only in her domestic concerns; when David king of Scotland, whom  
Edward

Edward III. wanted to deprive of his crown, made a descent into Northumberland, and having put all to the fire and sword, went to besiege the castle of Salisbury. But although that place was commanded only by a woman, David met with such a resistance as obliged him to raise the siege; and the countess having fallen on his rear guard killed a great number of his men.

Edward III. who, on the news of the incursions of the Scots into Northumberland, had marched to the relief of his subjects; not long after went to Salisbury; but he forbore pursuing the enemy because his soldiers were fatigued with forced marches. This prince being informed of the stand the countess had made against the Scots, and of her courage in attacking them in their retreat, thought himself indispensibly obliged to pay her a visit, to compliment her on her valour and success. Edward III. was a gallant polite man; the beauty of the countess charmed him; and he being persuaded that a king, in order to touch the heart of a fair one, has not occasion to use the same precaution as a private person, he informed her of his passion. When finding by the answer of the countess that his hopes were vain, he soon took his leave, flattering himself that

that absence would prove a remedy for love: But the beauty and virtue of the charming countess had made too deep an impression on his heart, to be so easily effaced as he imagined; her lovely idea left him no repose. In short, some years having passed without his being able to divert his thoughts from her, he resolved to see her again: For this purpose, he gave an entertainment, at which the principal nobility were ordered to be present.

The countess notwithstanding her dislike to a court, went thither in obedience to the orders of the king. The elogiums bestowed on her by the noblemen, and the jealousy excited among the other ladies, were the signals by which his majesty was informed of her arrival. As it was solely on her account that the entertainment was given, he caused it to begin as soon as he knew she was present. The king, whose eyes were constantly rivetted on her, was the first who discovered her garter fall off in dancing, when he stooped and took it up. The Countess at first imagining the King had some other design, was put into a great confusion: But Edward guessing at her thoughts, said *Hani soit qui mal y pense*; (evil be to him that evil thinks) and perceiving that several of the nobles, astonished



astonished at his complaisance, could not help laughing; he added, “ what you have just now “ seen, shall occasion the institution of an order “ which the greatest nobleman shall esteem it an “ honour to bear.” In consequence of which he instituted the order of the Garter; the knights wearing it on their left leg; and the words *Honi soit qui mal y pense*, which Edward pronounced on taking up the countess’s garter, is the motto.



SIMON de MONTFORT, *earl of LEICESTER, defeats HENRY III. king of ENGLAND in battle, and takes him prisoner; and exercises more absolute dominion in the kingdom than monarchs themselves; but he loses his life, by hindering his sons from making a tournament with an English nobleman, in the year 1262.*

**H**ENRY III. king of England was an indolent prince. He was sometimes bold in enterprises, but always languid in their execution;

cution ; the least obstacle discouraged him. He gave way to the emotions of vivacity, and immediately fell again into his natural indolence, by which he abandoned all his projects. He was always surrounded by foreigners to whom he gave the principal posts in the kingdom, enriching them at the expence of the people. To defray his exorbitant expences and prodigality, he was obliged to impose the most burthenfom taxes. The English with indignation seeing themselves deprived of honours, and that their wealth was possessed by foreigners, they murmured greatly, and spiring each other up, they refused to pay the taxes, and took up arms to repel force by force. As rebels never want leaders, Richard, earl of Gloucester, and Simon de Montfort, earl of Leicester, both brothers-in-law to the king, put themselves at their head, and declared war against their sovereign. England was now exposed to all the calamities attendant on civil wars. Many cities were taken and retaken, and always became a prey to the soldiers, who pushed their cruelties to excess. The earl of Gloucester died, and Simon of Leicester remained sole commander of the malecontents. As he was an able officer, and merited the highest encomiums, if he had  
not

not employed his talents against the king; he knew how to take the advantage of all the errors into which the royalists fell. In short, after several engagements, wherein he was always successful, he came to a general action, in which he made the king and all the royal family prisoners.

The English who considered him as their deliverer, regarded him more than their king.

But this nobleman who had had the address to attain to the supreme power, had not prudence to keep it. He abused his authority. The English, whom he treated with haughtiness, perceived that he had his own elevation in view rather than the interest of his country; and their discontent thereupon, together with their natural inconstancy, induced them to wish that some one would have the courage to oppose him. This soon happened in the person of Gilbert, earl of Gloucester, son of Richard. This young nobleman, who had had a considerable share in the victory gained over the king by the malecontents, was desirous of celebrating it by rejoicings, and publicly proposed a tournament. The earl of Leicester fearing that this festivity might be productive of some commotions forbade his children being present at it. Young Gloucester, who was already offended at the earl

H

of



of Leicester for not sharing the authority with him, grew outrageous on hearing the order which the earl had given to his sons, and vowed his destruction. To hasten the execution of his design, he applied to certain noblemen whom he knew to be attached to the king, and proposed to join them in an attempt to release him from his imprisonment; he gained over several of the malecontents, went with them to deliver the young prince Edward, who was not so strongly guarded as the king his father; and put him at the head of the party he had formed.

This young prince, who reigned under the name of Edward I. embraced the opportunity which fortune threw in his way. He immediately published an amnesty, in the name of his father, to all those who would join him. By this policy his army increased daily, many cities declaring for him; and now, being master of a considerable army, he went in quest of the earl of Leicester, came up with him before he had got together all his forces, and obliged him to come to an engagement, in which he gave such proofs of his conduct and valour, that Leicester, being astonished, said, "By the arm  
 " of St. James, I have taught my enemies to  
 " fight. Let us recommend our souls to God;  
 " for our bodies are at their disposal." Soon  
 after

after he had uttered these words, he fell dead to the ground, being wounded in several places. The rebels, having lost their leader, presently dispersed. Edward, covered with laurels, went immediately and set his father at liberty, and replaced him on the throne, where he demeaned himself with great prudence, and died peaceably in the year 1273.



*A quarrel which arose between two men of mean condition, the one a Genoese and the other a Venetian, occasions a terrible war between the republics of Venice and Genoa, about the year 1258.*

**G**ENOA withdrew itself from the dominion of the successors of Charlemagne : And, in spite of all the troubles and divisions with which she was agitated, as well as intestine civil wars, she preserved her liberty. Europe, then peopled by barbarians, was ignorant of the advantages of commerce ; Genoa built ships and brought into Europe the productions of Asia and Africa ; She amassed immense riches and be-

came one of the most flourishing cities of the world. Venice followed her example, and became her rival.

These two republics, whom commerce made known to all nations, soon had establishments in all parts of the known world. They had a considerable one in the city of Acre, which on account of it's situation, and largeness of it's harbour, was very commodious to those who traded along the coast of Syria. The Genoese and Venetians had between them more than one third of the city, where they lived subject to the laws of their respective countries.

Neither the difference of customs, nor even interest itself, which among merchants is as an astonishing circumstance, occasioned any discord between them: They lived many years in as perfect an union as if they had been of the same nation and of joint interests. But if the ordinary motives of division among men were not capable of disturbing these two nations, we shall see them in arms against each other, from a trifling, and, at the same time, a very singular cause. Two men of the very lowest condition, the one a Genoese, and the other a Venetian, who were no other than porters to the merchants, fell out about a bale of goods which were to be carried:

From



From words they came to blows. The merchants, who at first gathered round them only by way of amusement to see the battle, at length took part in the quarrel, each assisting their countryman. They grew warm, and fought together; so that much blood was spilt, and a deal of damage done on both sides. Complaints were soon carried to Genoa and Venice. The magistrates of each republic agreed, that satisfaction should be made for the damage, according to the estimation of several arbitrators appointed for that purpose. The Genoese being condemned to make a more considerable reparation than the Venetians, delayed to furnish what was demanded of them. The Venetians piqued at the unfaithfulness of the Genoese, resolved to do themselves justice; and having surprized all the Genoese vessels which were in the port of Acre, set them on fire. The Genoese would have retaliated this injury on the Venetians, but the latter were on their guard, and prevented them; a battle however ensued, much more bloody than the first. Genoa and Venice, resolved to support their merchants, they each fitted out a considerable fleet; that of the former was beaten; and the Genoese were obliged to abandon their settlements at Acre: The Venetians

tians razed their houses and forts, and destroyed their magazines. The Genoese, irritated at their defeat, used their utmost efforts to put their fleet again into a condition to attack the Venetians. Every citizen offered to venture his person and fortune to revenge the outrage committed against his country. The Venetians informed of these preparations, neglected no precautions to oppose them. The sea was covered with ships, an engagement ensued, much blood was spilt, and many brave citizens were lost on both sides. In short, after a long and cruel war, in which the two republics reaped nothing but shame for having entered into it, they made peace.

A state is always exposed to the greatest misfortunes, when the power of the people is too extensive.



*A yellow Goat occasions the death of three Khans of the Tartars, and the destruction of several cities.*

**A** V A N A S, Khan of Charafin, had three sons; but not all by the same mother.  
The

The eldest, Din Mahamet he had by a female slave. The mother of the other two was the daughter of a Khan, and held the first rank in the seraglio of Avanas. The Tartars call the favourite sultana of their khans, the Biim. She who was Avanas's, hated Din-Mahamet excessively; and her hatred towards him increased as he grew up. This prince, who had a natural inclination for war, employed himself when very young in building little forts. He had finished one with earth and stones, he placed several of his comrades in it, and commanded others to attack the fort, promising rewards to those who should signalize themselves, and threatened with death those who were deficient in courage. The Biim, who happened to be present, said to Din-Mahamet: "Do you imagine, *Tugma*, as you are, "that forts are built of earth and stones." As the word *Tugma* in the Tartarian language, signifies the son of a slave, the prince, though very young, was sensible of the affront, and was much offended; and, looking at her with contempt, replied: "If you are ignorant, that it "is with earth and stones that forts are made, "I am not." This answer provoked the Biim so greatly that she could no longer endure him. She every day sought occasions of mortifying



him : In short, she treated him so badly, that before he was nineteen years of age, he quitted his father's house, and went to Chorassan a province of Persia, accompanied by forty youths, who resolved to go with him and share his fortune, good or bad.

He had no sooner entered the territories of Mahamet-Gasi-Can, who was his father's neighbour, than he met a man driving nine camels and thirty sheep into the pastures of Gasi : Din-Mahamet perceiving a yellow she-goat among the sheep, desired the shepherd to let him have it, in order to supply his people with milk during their march, promising that he would take great care that it should be restored on his return ; but the man refusing to let him have it, he ill-treated him, and took away from him not only the yellow goat, but all the rest of the cattle he had in his charge, and pursued his route. This man repaired to Gasi ; and related to him the treatment he had received. Gasi immediately sent some troops in pursuit of Din-Mahamet, with orders to bring him before him if they could seize him. These instructions were executed ; for Din-Mahamet, not suspecting the evil which threatned him, was quite off his guard, and continued his journey with as much security

security as if he had been in the territories of his father. He was seized by the troops, who conducted him to Gafi; but they suffered the young men who accompanied him, to make their escape. Gafi, who was the brother of Avanas Khan's favourite sultana, caused young Din-Mahamet to be punished, and sent him to his father, under an escorte, of six men, whom he ordered to tell Avanas, that he had sent him back his *Tugma*, after correcting him for having robbed some of his people on the highway. Din-Mahamet, desirous of escaping from his guards, made, from time to time a loud noise, in hopes that some of his comrades, having perchance taken that route, might hear his voice, and come to his relief; and so it happened. More than half of his friends not daring to return to the court of Avanas, had stopped at a village through which Din-Mahamet's escorte were conducting him, and knowing his voice, they followed him to an unfrequented place, and there slew his guards, buried them on the spot, and covered them over with sand. Din-Mahomet being thus set at liberty, went very quietly to his father; and finding that he knew nothing of what had happened to him while with Gafi-Khan, he told him that the latter had threatened him, but being afterwards pacified,

he had sent him back again ; Avanas gave credit to his son's story, and asked him no further questions. But this young man, who was of a haughty and turbulent disposition, resolved to revenge the insults which Gafi-Khan had committed against him. For this purpose, he caused the seals of his father and of the Biim, his mother-in-law, who was the sister of Gafi, to be counterfeited, wrote to the Khan in the name of his father, that his sister was dangerously ill, and being desirous of speaking to him, she intreated him to come and see her immediately. To this letter he added one from the Biim, by which she earnestly requested her brother to give her the satisfaction of seeing him before her death : He sealed these letters with the two counterfeit seals, and gave them to a man of confidence, who carried them to Gafi.

In the mean time he assembled the forty men who had followed him in his journey, declared to them his design, and promised them very great rewards if they would second him. As soon as Gafi had received the two letters, he set out immediately in order to see his sister, and arrived at his brother-in-law's house one morning when the latter was gone a hunting, went up into his sister's apartment, and not seeing any appearance of sickness in her, he told her he thanked God  
that



that she was so soon recovered. The Biim telling him she did not understand what he meant, and that she had not been ill at all, he began to suspect, that a trick was designed to be played him; and left her, in order to satisfy himself further about it; but hearing a good deal of noise in the palace, he endeavoured to gain a little back door. As he was in the passage to it, he perceived some armed men, fear then seized him to such a degree, that he went and concealed himself in a heap of dung in a corner of a stable. Din-Mahamet, who had seen him go up to the apartment of the Biim, went thither in search of him, but not finding him, he enquired of his mother-in-law's attendants what was become of him; when having learnt that he went towards the stable, he flew thither; and after a long search, he perceived a little bit of scarlet which was not covered with the dung; as soon as he was certain it was Gasi, he ran his sword quite through his body and escaped. Avanas-Khan was overwhelmed with grief, when returning from the chace, he heard this news. He sent a courier immediately to the brother of Gasi to inform him that he had not any part in the assassination of Gasi; and that he would revenge his death in the blood of him who had

slain him, though it was his own son. The brother of Gafi was not contented with this submission, he assembled his troops in order to attack Avanas-Khan. The latter, obliged to oppose an enemy who had sworn his destruction, levied troops likewise, went to meet him, come up with, defeated and slew him, and divided his states among his children, giving the best part to Din-Mahomet, whose crime this victory had made him forget.

Avanas-Khan, enjoyed his conquest some time; but he found himself at length forced to shed tears over his good fortune : He even shed his blood, and was sacrificed to the memory of the two Gafi's. The last had a son, named Umar, aged fifteen years, who, after the death of his father, went into the service of Obeit, Khan of Great Bucharia. This young man, after having rendered the Khan the most signal services, intreated him to grant him troops to revenge the death of his uncle and his father. Obeit, thinking this mark of gratitude his due, complied. The young Umar, at the head of a numerous army, entered the states of Avanas Khan, put all to fire and sword, defeated those who endeavoured to oppose his progress, made Avanas prisoner, and slew him with his own hand.

Din-Mahamet, who was in a distant country, immediately raised troops and marched against  
the

the enemy. As he had but 10,000 men to oppose more than 50,000, all his friends entreated him not to undertake so rash an enterprize ; but he continued advancing, without answering them ; but on repeating their instances, he said, “ My  
 “ resolution is taken ; I will not change it.  
 “ Even though I should be alone, I would go  
 “ and attack the enemy. Heaven ! my father  
 “ is loaded with chains, and they would have  
 “ me remain quiet ! If your cowardice compels  
 “ you to stop, honour obliges me to go forward.  
 “ Your Khan goes to fight and to die. ” Ending these words, he quitted them and advanced towards the place where he knew the enemy were marching. His courage animating his soldiers, they followed him with an equal desire of fighting. He came up with the enemy, and attacked them with such conduct and courage that he cut them in pieces, made a prodigious number of prisoners, whom he had the generosity afterwards to set at liberty, though he had been informed of the death of his father, and was not ignorant that his murderer was amongst them. He contented himself with saying, “ Your death will not restore life to my father ; and it is sufficient to  
 “ revenge it, by not deigning to punish you.”



*The boldness with which wine inspired a shoemaker at Genoa, occasioned the Government of that republic to be changed.*

**A**LL republics have been torn by civil wars : Ambition hath ever kindled discord therein. In the history of those states, we see continually the nobles assuming more than their rights, and by their injustice, exhausting the patience of the people, who arming themselves at the instigation of an ambitious person, and guided by rage alone, brave the laws, and commit the most terrible disorders.

Genoa was not exempt from these evils ; we meet with nothing in the writers who have transmitted it's history, but troubles and calamities : It is a chain of revolutions. Towards the middle of the fourteenth century, the people, impatient under the tyranny of the nobility, murmured. There were some among them who sacrificed the welfare and tranquility of the public to their ambition and to their interest : They  
took

took advantage of the discontent of the people, and irritated them by seditious discourses : They took up arms, and the nobility, to avoid the blows with which were they threatened, promised to grant whatever should be demanded of them.

The populace were desirous that *an Abbé of the people* should be elected : His office was to sustain the interests and liberties of the people, and to counterbalance in a great measure, the authority of the *captains*, who were then the magistrates of the republic.

An assembly was accordingly held for the election of an *Abbe of the people*. Vast numbers went to the place of meeting, and every one gave his voice ; but as they all spoke at once, nobody was understood. The tumult encreased, the people began to grow warm, and were ready to proceed to blows ; when a shoemaker who at that instant was just come from a drinking-house, passing by the assembly, mixed among the crowd, and, getting upon a little eminence that fell in his way, being emboldened by the fumes of the wine, he bawled out as loud as he was able “ Fellow citizens, will you hearken to me.” This invocation struck their ears, and immediately all eyes were fixed on him ; and the Genoese, who were about to tear each other to pieces, all joined in a  
 hearty

heartly laugh. Some bad him hold his peace, others encouraged him to speak on; and others again threw dirt at him; all laughed. This orator without being in the least disconcerted, said, " I think myself obliged to tell you, that  
 " you ought to nominate to the dignity of *Abbé*  
 " of the people, an honest man; and I know of  
 " none more so than Simon Boccanegra; you  
 " ought to appoint him. "

Simon Boccanegra, was a perfectly honest man, the amiableness of his character, his generosity, and many other virtues had procured him the love and esteem both of the nobility and commonalty. He was of one of the principal families among the citizens, and his relations had filled, with universal applause, the dignities of the republic. The person who first occupied the place of *Captain of the people*, was one of his ancestors.

In short, his merit occasioned them to pay attention to the shoemaker's harangue. The name of Boccanegra became the general cry, every one insisted upon his being elected *Abbé of the people*, and they presented him the sword, which was the mark of his dignity: but he returned it, saying, that he thanked the people for the good-will they had shewn him, and that as none of his ancestors had been *Abbé of the people*, he would not be  
 the



the first who should introduce that office into his family. He was willing to avail himself of the humour into which he found the speech of the shoemaker had thrown the people, to attain the lead in the republic.

The people, who are seldom moderate in their affection, any more than in their hatred, immediately cried out, “ Boccanegra, Lord of Genoa.” This artful, ambitious man, said that he was ready to submit to the will of the people, to be *Abbé* or *Lord*, according as they should ordain. This feigned humility pleased the people, as he expected ; they repeated, “ Lord Boccanegra !” and he was proclaimed perpetual Doge. So that the speech of a drunken shoemaker occasioned the government of Genoa to be transmitted from nobles to the people, and a single man to become sole master in the state.

He did not abuse his power : ever watchful of the public tranquillity, he made a proper use of indulgence and severity. His prudence made him respected and esteemed. Seditions were appeased ; the Genoese, quiet at home, were able to repel the attacks of the enemies of the state, and to make themselves feared by all their neighbours.

Notwithstanding

Notwithstanding his virtues, the Doge could not give satisfaction to those minds, who never finding any thing to be pleased with, explode all : they publicly blamed his conduct, accused him of ambition, and were perpetually forming conspiracies against him. Boccanegra, tranquil in the midst of these storms, knew how to make himself feared by those whose love he could not obtain. At length, satiated with honours, like another Sylla, he abdicated ; and in leaving to another the vacant place, he left him at the same time, a fine example of moderation.



*The Sale of a considerable estate in Wales, occasions EDWARD II. king of England, to be dethroned, and assassinated in a prison, in the year 1335.*

**E**DWARD II. the weakest of kings, granted honours and dignities only to young persons who purchased them by the most odious of all compliencies. Hugh Spenser, a young man of comely person and good natural talents, had the meanness to mix among them, and had the deplorable advantage of having the preference

preference over all his rivals. Being the worst of the favourites, he was the most powerful. He was so entirely master of the will of the monarch, that he made him execute every thing he pleased.

This favourite had the imprudence common to those who rise from nothing to the pinnacle of greatness. Far from making friends, who by their influence might have prevented the designs formed against him, he drew upon himself, by his arrogance, the hatred of the whole English nation: every one reproached him, and no body owed him any good-will. The respect due to the monarch long smothered this general discontent: but his insatiable avidity made it burst out at last. A nobleman having put up one of his estates to sale, several persons of rank offered to purchase it. The favourite, instead of leaving them to wrangle amongst themselves, and profiting from their strife, made them all unite against him: he engaged the king, whom he entirely ruled, to procure him the preference.

All these noblemen being greatly provoked, went to the earl of Lancaster, and related to him what Spenser had done. This earl had long been seeking for an opportunity to destroy the favourite, from whom he had received the grossest affronts.



affronts. It now offered : the singularity of the affair will make the digression excuseable.

The earl of Lancaster had married the heiress of Lincoln, who brought him a very considerable portion. This woman, through one of those fantastical humours, which, though pretty frequent, are nevertheless amazing, loved a gentleman named Saint Martin, of middling extraction, hunch-backed and lame. This deformed man inspired the countess of Lancaster with so violent a passion, that she consented to leave her husband, to follow him. The earl, hitherto unacquainted with the cause of his wife's extraordinary resolution, was greatly surprized ; but much more so, when he saw the cripple, and heard him demand his wife's fortune, pretending to have married her, and to have consummated the nuptials, before she was contracted to the earl. The nature of the affair, the rank which the earl of Lancaster held in England, must doubtless have crushed this piece of deformity ; but he would not have carried his assurance to such a length, if he had not depended on the protection of Spenser, who, by his power, thought to have gained him his suit. Justice, however, was rendered to the earl, who, contented with keeping the large fortune which his wife had brought

brought him, abandoned her to her depravities, disdaining to pursue and punish so contemptible a woman.

The earl of Lancaster, therefore, joyfully seized this opportunity of revenge. He infused his indignation into the hearts of all those who were about him, and giving way entirely to his rage, quitted the bounds of duty so far, as to declare that he must go to seek this favourite even in the arms of majesty, and sacrifice him to the tranquility of the public. This was the signal of rebellion, he soon formed a league, composed of the principal noblemen of England. The people, ever easy to be stirred up, took arms at their summons, and ranged themselves under their banners. The king was at first greatly dismayed ; but taking courage again, raised an army, and marched against the rebels : one while conquerer, at another conquered, he menaced, or promised, according to the success of his arms. At length, having gained a battle which appeared decisive, and wherein he made the chiefs of the league prisoners, among whom was the earl of Lancaster, he had the imprudence, in compliance with the persuasion of his favourite, to put them to death ; flattering himself that this cruelty would

would intimidate others ; and that no person would dare for the future to oppose him in any thing ; but his favourite and himself met with misfortunes where they expected to find happiness.

Isabella of France, daughter of Philippe le Bel, and wife of Edward II. looking with eyes of indignation on a man who shared with her in the affections of her spouse, had kept up a secret correspondence with the conspirators. The news therefore of their death chagrined her so violently, that she was unable to conceal it from the king and his favourite ; than which nothing could have more irritated Spenser against her : He therefore was not content with having prejudiced her husband against her, but he removed all her most faithful domestics from her, and retrenched part of the sum allowed for the support of her household. The spirited Isabella could no longer restrain her resentment. The anger which she had long stifled, now broke out, and hurried her to extremities : she resolved to dethrone her husband, that Spenser might be crushed by his fall. This design being formed, she employed her whole attention for carrying it into execution ; she assembled together the remains of the confederacy, and took the utmost precautions for striking a sure blow.

Her



Her principal embarrassment was the obtaining a proper number of forces ; without which she could not hope to succeed : But in the present situation of affairs, it was almost impossible to raise them in England ; the cruelty which the king and his favourite had exercised towards the former confederates, having spread an universal panic. Inspired, however, with revenge, she resolved to seek for troops abroad.

For this purpose she proposed to Edward II. that she herself would go over to France, in order to accomodate a difference between him and Charles le Bel her brother, at that time king of France, and who insisted that Edward should go there and pay him homage for Guienne. Edward, ever guided by his favourite, whose interest it was, that the queen should be removed from court, had the imprudence to accept her proposal. On her arrival in France, she received every mark of friendship and affection from the king her brother, who loved her tenderly, and out of regard to her consented that young Edward, son to the king of England, should render homage for Guienne, in the room of his father. The English king added to his former imprudence, by sending his son over to Isabella, who was artful enough to engage the young prince

prince to espouse her cause. She communicated her designs to her brother, of whom she hoped to obtain succours: But he was too politic to enter into a war, in which he was sure of losing many men and much money, without reaping the least advantage. Queen Isabella perceiving that she had nothing to hope for from this quarter, went into Hainault, where count Philip her relation, received her with great tokens of affection. The politic Isabella, in order the better to succeed in her views upon Phillip, proposed a match between one of his daughters and her son. The count, flattered with this honour, granted her three thousand men, the command of whom he gave to his brother John, who though a young man, possessed all the talents necessary for War.

Isabella, with this succour, returned to England, where she no sooner arrived than she found her army daily encrease. The principal nobility, discontented with the government, came, with their partisans well armed, and joined her. Being now at the head of a numerous army, she marched strait to London, with a design to seize the persons of the king and his favourite. But on receiving the news of her march, they escaped to Wales, where they hoped to meet with resources. The queen pursued them: They were  
soon

soon taken. The king was confined at Kenewert, and Spenser was carried to the queen, who caused him to be hanged on a gibbet 50 feet high. Edward II. was soon after deposed in form, and all orders of the state were discharged from the oaths of fidelity they had taken to him. The lord high steward went and broke his sceptre before him, in imitation of the ceremonies observed at the obsequies of kings. The unfortunate Edward shed a torrent of tears on this occasion; and what augmented his sufferings, was, that they were in general looked on rather with pleasure than pity.

Those who had deposed him hastened to London and proclaimed his son king, by the name of Edward the Third.

The second Edward did not survive this disgrace above a year. Those who had occasioned it could not taste tranquility so long as they had a revolution to fear: One morning he was found dead. It is said that a red hot iron was thrust up his body through a pipe made of horn.



I

FRANCIS



FRANCIS I. *king of France, having promised a lady of whom he was enamoured, to meet her at Lyons in the month of March, occasions him to lose the battle of Pavia, himself to be made prisoner, and reduces France to the brink of ruin.*

FRANCIS I. when Charles of Austria, known by the name of Charles the Vth. was proclaimed emperor, conceived such a jealousy of him, that he seized every opportunity of affronting him. He even protected several of his vassals in their disobedience to their sovereign, and sowed troubles and divisions in the states of the emperor. These proceedings provoked Charles the Vth; but he like an able politician suppressed his resentment till he had got together forces sufficient to crush his enemy. He then began to shew it, by re-establishing Francis Sforce in the dutchy of Milan, which the king of France had invaded; and supplied the duke with men  
sufficient

sufficient to oppose the efforts of France. Francis I. immersed in pleasures, and regardless of glory, sent undisciplined troops and inexperienced commanders to preserve his conquest, and thereby lost it.

According to several historians, this monarch, who was capable of the greatest enterprises, was so addicted to the pleasures of love, that whatever did not relate thereto, was to him indifferent. This passion, which is ever fatal to those who deliver themselves up to it without reserve, had tormented him from his early youth, to such a degree, that he sacrificed every thing to it: Of which the following is a proof. When he was count of Angoulême, and presumptive heir to the crown, he yielded to the desire Mary of England, wife of Lewis XII. had of making herself amends on account of the infirmities of the king. Going one day to a place of assignation made him by her majesty, he met Grignaux, the queen's gentleman usher, who suspecting what was going forward, said to him, "My lord you are about to commit an act which may cost you your crown." This hint notwithstanding it's importance, did not divert the duke of Angoulême from his purpose; who replied to Grignaux, "It will be a satis-

“ faction to me to see my children reign.” The gentleman seeing him so imprudent, went and advised his mother to prevent his being alone with the queen during the life of Louis XII.

After he ascended the throne, he invited to his court all the ladies of distinction; and ordered apartments to be prepared for the most beautiful among them, and took the keys of their chambers into his custody, that he might go to them at what hour of the night he thought proper, without being seen.

These were some of the employments of Francis I. while his troops were perishing in Italy, and his conquests were retaken, which might have been easily retained.

Bonivet, though not possessed of great talents either for war or government, resolved to put an end to the evil by the cause of it. He gave the king so amiable a portrait of signora Claria of Milan, that he was very desirous of seeing her, and of making her his mistress. For which purpose he determined to pass the Alpes, and to go himself to Italy to carry on the War. He assembled a body of troops and began his march; when he reached Lyons he stopt some days to repose himself. Here he saw a lady of extraordinary beauty, he was enamoured with her,  
fought



sought an opportunity of declaring his passion to her, and obtained the summit of his wishes by the compliance of the fair one; and his love increasing where in such cases it usually ends, he deferred his departure from thence as long as possible. At length being obliged to leave his mistress, he solemnly promised to return with all possible speed to her embraces; and even fixed a day, the beginning of March. With this resolution he put himself at the head of his army passed the Alps, and entered the Milanese; where the Imperialists weakened by fatigues and want of provisions, fled before him. In vain his most experienced officers advised him to pursue them, in vain they demonstrated how easy it was entirely to subdue them; he obstinately persisted in laying siege to Pavia, saying, he would not leave a place behind him. But instead of assaulting the place with vigour, he gave himself up to amusements, and by prolonging the siege gave the enemy time to recollect and augment their forces, and march to the relief of Pavia.

When they appeared, his most able officers urged him to raise the siege, and avoid an engagement, assuring him the fire of the Imperialists would soon abate, and that then he might attack them to advantage, and retrieve his honour.

These prudent remonstrances were also fruitless. He recollected that he had promised his mistress to return victorious to her in the month of March ; and to keep his word he hazarded his honour, his crown, and his liberty. He drew up his army in order of battle, and fought himself with that courage which is commendable in a common soldier, but very blameable in a king. He rushed into the midst of the enemy and bore down all before him. The French animated by his example, obliged the foe to give way ; but soon after their strength failed them, they in their turn fell back, were thrown into disorder and fled. Francis I. ever guided by courage, remained on the field of battle, and by his example recalled his scattered troops ; but all in vain : Terror had seized them, and nothing could stop their flight. The king wounded in two places lost much blood, and his strength was impaired. The enemy, whom till now he had driven before him, surrounded him, seized, loaded him with chains, and conducted him to Madrid. France was thrown into the greatest consternation, and being without money, without troops, and without a king, was forced to submit to the law of the conqueror. But he knew not how to make a proper advantage of his success, and

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gave the vanquished time to recover from their consternation, and to assemble fresh forces. He exacted large promises of Francis I. and set him at liberty. He demanded more than it was in the power of France to give him, and received nothing.



*The pannic into which some robbers threw MARGARET of Anjou, Wife of HENRY IV. king of England, occasions her to escape with her son from the pursuit of EDWARD IV's partisans, who had wrested the crown from HENRY IV. and confined him in the tower of London.*

THE disputes between the houses of York and Lancaster, who successively seized the crown of England, are too well known to need any description here.

Henry IV. third king of the house of Lancaster, was a prince of a mild, humane, and pacific disposition ; but without suspicion, without



activity, without vigour, in one word very unfit to govern the English, especially at a time when every day produced some new conspiracy. He long tottered on the throne, from whence he would have been precipitated at the first shock, had not his wife, who possessed the abilities of the greatest ministers, and the valour of the bravest heroes, supported him. Margaret of Anjou surpassed all the women of her time in beauty, and discharged all the duties of a good wife towards her husband. On her arrival in England she examined into the government with strict attention, and perceived that it wanted reformation. She began by gaining the confidence of the king, and removed from court all who might frustrate her designs, and employed those who were capable of being useful to her. Ever observant and active, she knew and regulated every thing. The English were peaceable, and behaved with due respect and submission to their king. This tranquillity would have lasted, and the crown remained in the house of Lancaster, if Henry would have followed the counsels, cruel indeed but necessary, of Margaret. The house of York which had formerly filled the throne, was the irreconcilable enemy of that of Lancaster. The queen was  
for

for preventing by every method, the attempts which they might make ; but Henry judging of the sincerity of others by himself, opposed the advice of the queen, and was satisfied with the submission the Yorkist made to him. But he was soon the dupe of his own kindness. The security in which he lived, gave the duke of York time to form a party and attack the king, whom he found in a defenceless state, and to seize the crown.

Margaret of Anjou possessed too elevated a soul to be dejected by this accident. She immediately raised an army, put herself at the head of it, went in pursuit of the enemy and defeated them ; then falling in with a body of forces, commanded by the earl of Warwick, she cut them in pieces, and entered victoriously into the city of London, released her husband from the tower, and placed him on the throne. The duke of York repaired his loss, and appeared again at the head of a fresh army. The queen marched to give him battle with the same courage, but not with same success. Henry IV. involved her in his misfortunes : She was defeated and forced to fly.

This unfortunate princess, had with her, during the battle, her son the prince of Wales, whom she loved to such a degree, that she

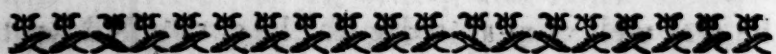
would not trust him to the care of any person. This tenderness had nearly cost both of them their lives. The enemy, after the battle, pursued them with such ardour as struck a terror into those who accompanied them in their flight, and the queen and prince were left alone in a large forest. There a gang of robbers meeting with them, stopped and plundered them of all they had. These villains were no sooner become masters of the spoils of these respectable personages, than they differed about the partition, and came to blows. The queen, whose whole thoughts were occupied about the safety of her son, took the advantage of their quarrel, and though the prince was of such an age as to be no very light burthen, she took him in her arms and escaped from them. Fear gave her strength; she ran so swiftly that she soon reached a very thick part of the forest, where she imagined she had nothing to dread except wild beasts. Fatigue now overcame her, and she stopped in order to repose herself; but had no sooner sat down than she saw a man of so ferocious and menacing an aspect as made her tremble. She strove to get up and take her son in her arms to save him again from the approaching danger; but in vain; her lassitude was so great that she was unable to move. In this  
extremity



extremity she resolved to try whether the respect due to the blood of kings could make any impression on the man, notwithstanding his unfavourable countenance; therefore, with that majestic air which was familiar to her, she said, (shewing him the prince) "Oh save the only child of your king." These few words made such an impression on the mind of the unknown person, that he took the royal infant in his arms, and became the guide of the mother. After walking a long time in the forest, the roads of which he was well acquainted with, he conducted her to the sea-side; where, meeting with a vessel, she embarked with the prince her son. The ship was scarcely got under sail before she perceived many of the duke of York's soldiers coming out of the wood: by which she found, that in escaping from the thieves she had also avoided falling into the hands of an enemy, much more to be dreaded on her son's account.

This great princess passed over to France, where she hoped to obtain, from her family, succours sufficient to replace her husband and herself on the throne. But neither her virtues nor her distresses had their due weight with those to whom she applied. The duke of York in the mean time had the address to manage the restless and

inconstant spirit of the English in such a manner, as to remain quiet possessor of the throne. Margaret by repeated intreaties, at length obtained some troops of the court of France, and embarked with them for England; but her army was defeated, her son killed in the action, her husband was soon after poisoned, and she was confined in the tower of London; from whence she at last was released, and finished her days in France:



*The love of MARGARET dutchess dowager of Burgundy for a young Jew, occasions Britany to be re-united to France, and England to be rent by civil wars.*

A JEW named John Warbeck, converted to the christian faith, having managed his affairs badly at Tournay where he was settled, went to England with his wife, who was a Fleming, and of mean descent. Warbeck by his intrigues, and the address familiar to people of his nation, soon repaired in England his shattered

tered fortunes. He had a son to whom Edward II. stood god-father, so that by way of raillery the child was called the king's son. As he was baptized by the name of Peter, he was on account of his smallness called *Petrekín*, or *Perkin* which is a diminutive thereof; and this name he ever retained.

Warbeck his father, having amassed a sum considerable enough to pass the remainder of his days in tranquility, returned to Tournay with his wife and his son; the latter he placed some time after with a relation of his at Antwerp, who still adhered to the Jewish religion. The voyages which the boy made with this Jew gave him an opportunity of learning all the languages of Europe. Going one day with his relation to carry some curiosities to the dutchess of Burgundy, she was charmed with the beauty of his person, and the vivacity of his understanding; she kept him some time with her; and her affection for him increased to such a degree, that she was desirous of putting a crown upon his head. The situation of affairs in England at that time appeared favourable to her wishes, and and that was the throne she chose for her lover. Though Henry VII. earl of Richmond, being heir by the mother's side to the house of Lancaster, and husband of the heiress of that of York,



York, had united in his person the right of both houses, yet she flattered herself that the English, ever fond of novelty, would fall into the snare she was about to spread for them. In this hope, she resolved that Perkin should pass for the duke of York, brother of Edward V. taking him into a private place, she thus spoke to him.

“ Perkin, I would willingly make your fortune equal to your talents, which are much superior to your birth. Harken to my advice, follow it; and you will be sure of succeeding.”

Perkin was born for adventures; he had all the boldness requisite for enterprize, and feared no risks. He thanked the dutchess for having cast her eyes on him for the execution of so fine a project, and promised to follow the counsels she should be so good as to give him. She discovered to him more circumstantially the design she had formed of making him pass for the duke of York, and of putting him in a way to wrest the crown from Henry V. II. She then perfectly instructed him what artifices he was to use in order to deceive the public as to his birth. She directed him at first to speak of himself as an unfortunate prince, but whose greatness of soul would not suffer him to shrink under the weight of his misfortunes. She then informed him of

every

every circumstance respecting the duke of York ; the figure, face, features, and shape, of Edward IV. his father ; of the queen ; of Edward V. his brother ; of his other brothers ; of his sisters ; and of all those who had had any concern in his education. As the real duke of York was killed in the tower by the order of Richard III. who had usurped the crown of Edward V. he framed a story to prove his escape, and practised Perkin in repeating it ; which he did in so natural and affecting a manner, as to impose on all who heard him. This impostor, among many other talents possessed that of dissimulation to perfection, and could sustain a falsity with resolution. It was not long before he was qualified agreeable to the dutchess's wishes : He then commenced his journey in order to sow the seeds of this imposture. He first went to Portugal ; but did not tarry long there, as he perceived that no person gave ear to his tale : From thence he passed over to Ireland, where he met with so many dupes, that he was honoured and attended as the duke of York : The rumour of his adventure soon spread to France.

This happened at the time when Charles VIII. king of France was about to espouse princess Anne, heiress of the dutchy of Brittany ; and England to  
prevent

prevent this alliance as prejudicial to her interest, had raised a considerable armament. The dutchess of Burgundy was too artful not to take advantage of a conjuncture so favourable to her designs; and therefore sent a person to the court of France, to insinuate to the king and his ministers that it would be to their interest to support the pretensions of the duke of York. Though Charles was not the dupe of her cunning, he profited by it, and invited Perkin to his court; where he was received as though he had really been the duke of York. Many English noblemen went to France to pay their compliments to him whom they believed in good earnest to be the duke of York, and to offer him their services.

Perkin relying on the promises made to him in France, thought he had attained the accomplishment of his wishes; but he afterwards perceived that that politic court, only honoured him in order soon to sacrifice him, like the victims which the pagans decorate when they lead them to be sacrificed. Henry VII. finding himself in such a situation, that it was neither safe for him, nor advantageous for his kingdom to enter into a war with France, resolved to suffer them to take Brittany rather than expose himself to the

loss



loss of his crown, or to suffer the civil war, which was already kindled in England, to encrease.

These considerations induced him to propose an accommodation to Charles, who was too politic to refuse sacrificing an impostor to an advantageous peace. Henry was desirous of having Perkin delivered up to him; but he could not obtain his request. By his means France could stop any attempts which the English might make on them; therefore they were too prudent to surrender him; and only obliged him to seek an asylum elsewhere.

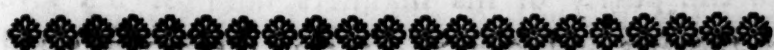
He retired to the dutchess of Burgundy, and implored her protection for one of the blood of York, as though he had never seen her before. The dutchess on her part affected not to know him, examined him publicly, and appeared to distrust him with so good a grace, that every person present was persuaded of his veracity, as she seemed to be so. She embraced Perkin, crying out at the same time, that heaven was the preserver of the illustrious descendant of the Yorks. This news soon reached England, and those of his partisans whom the peace which Henry had made with France had disconcerted, began to take courage. Malice, ambition, ferocity, and inconstancy, encreased his party; who began to murmur against the king and the government.

Henry,

Henry, who was an able politician, being sensible that severity on these occasions was dangerous, took care not to put it in practice; but he pursued a method to make the English bluff for their blind credulity. He sent persons in whom he could place confidence, to collect the most authentic informations, concerning the birth, life, and adventures of Perkin; and caused these informations to be conveyed in the letters of persons in his interest, in different countries, to those of their acquaintance in England; by which means he succeeded so far as to detach several noblemen of distinction from the impostor's interest.

Petrekin being informed that his party was daily diminishing, resolved that it should not be wholly extinguished. The dutchess of Burgundy furnished him with troops and ships, with which he sailed to England, where meeting with a repulse he took refuge in Scotland, whose king was then at variance with Henry; where he met with a very kind reception, and the king of Scotland gave him one of his near relations in marriage. He put him at the head of an army, with which the impostor marched into Northumberland, where several of the English joined him: But Henry who was extremely active, appeared with a numerous army to oppose him; which threw  
Perkin

Perkin into such a terror that he escaped and sought for asylum in a church, leaving his troops to take care of themselves. The king unwilling to enflame the minds of the people by too great severity, punished the principal officers, and pardoned the rest. He then went in quest of Perkin; and to induce him to quit his asylum, promised to spare his life. Perkin accepted his offer; and was committed prisoner to the tower of London; where the king caused him to be hanged, on being informed that he had a design of effecting his escape, and heading his party.



*The favour which pope L E O X. gave to the Jacobins in preference to the Augustines, for the distribution of indulgences, during a jubilee, occasions the introduction of Lutheranism.*

CHRISTIANITY, at the beginning of the sixteenth century enjoyed an universal calm. The sovereigns, being in harmony with each other, let their subjects enjoy that tranquillity which constitutes the happiness of States.



States. Commerce began to flourish, the arts and sciences which had been long sunk in oblivion, began to beam forth again. The peasant applied himself to the cultivation of the land, in serene expectance of the harvest, which he reaped with security,

This happiness was interrupted by Soliman II. emperor of the turks. He had just dethroned the king of Persia ; Syria had submitted to him some time, Egypt had not been able to resist him ; and he flattered himself with the subjection of all Europe. Pope Leo X. a pontif, respectable for the purity of his manners, and for his love of the arts and sciences, fearing the progress and menaces of the Turks, exhorted all the christian princes to unite their forces, in order to oppose this infidel. He granted a Jubilee, and indulgences more extensive than ordinary, which were obtained by paying down money towards the expences of the holy war. As every age has its slanderers, there were those who at that time gave out that the Pope sold his indulgences, to fill his empty coffers, which had been exhausted by his liberality to learned and ingenious men.

These indulgences were farmed by different provinces, and the commissions for preaching them up, and distributing them were granted to  
the

the Jacobins. As they reaped considerable profit thereby, the Augustins who had till this time always distributed them, were piqued at being now deprived of the profit. Their jealousy dictated many invectives against the Jacobins; the latter retorted upon them; and thus a war was kindled between the Monks. Both parties were irritated, and publickly libelled each other. The place from whence the humility of the gospel only ought to be enforced and recommended, resounded with invectives, dictated by jealousy and ambition.

Luther, who was then thirty-five years of age, and a professor of divinity in the university of Wirtemberg, thought it his duty to take part with the Augustins, of whom he was one. He was an active, laborious man, lively, impetuous, and even furious when provoked; in one word, capable of sacrificing every thing to his passions, even his faith. This was the champion, whom the Augustins chose to mount the stage in their behalf. He spoke with much energy against the Jacobins, against indulgencies, and against the power of the Pope. The Jacobins endeavoured to answer him, he spoke still louder, made himself heard, and prevailed. Disputations were supported, and each side had their partisans.

Sovereign

Sovereign princes interfered in the quarrel ; and the dispute of the college, became in some sort an affair of state. Luther was excommunicated ; and having nothing to fear, he dared to do any thing ; accordingly he published his error, which spread itself every where, and occasioned very great mischief in the world. \*



*The disgust of HENRY VIII. of England  
to CATHERINE of Arragon, occasions  
the schism of England.*

THE beginning of the sixteenth century, saw England exhibit one of the most singular revolutions recorded in history. It is true that the dispute of the patriarch of Constantinople, about this period, with the Pope, concerning the title of *Universal Bishop*, occasioned some surprize ; but the ambition of that prelate was

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\* Lest the inexperienced reader should be misled by the above false assertion, it may be necessary to observe, that Luther being one of the first and most zealous opposers of Popery, and the author of this book a Papist, it is no wonder that the latter calls the doctrines of Luther, *Error*, and gives the name of *Mischief* to the good they have diffused.

authorised



authorised by reasons seemingly plausible. Constantinople was the rival of Rome; she was become the capital of the empire, and he who was bishop thereof, judging of spiritualities by temporalities, thought himself at least equal to the prelate of Rome. But to see England for many ages tremble at the voice of the pope; to see her kings humble themselves before him even so far as to render him homage for their crown; and then all on a sudden despise his excommunications and indulgencies, and forbear acknowledging him as head of the church; to see, in short, the English, ever rebellious to their kings, become so docile as to sacrifice even their faith to Henry's will, and follow his caprices in matters of religion, constitutes the very height of astonishment! This, however, happened in the reign of Henry VIII.

That prince, influenced rather by interest than inclination, had married Catherine of Arragon, widow of his brother, and aunt by the mother's side to Charles the fifth, in order to preserve the alliance with Spain, and to avoid restoring a considerable portion which that princess had had in marriage. She had merit, and even beauty; but she was not agreeable to Henry, who indemnified himself with other women on account of the

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the disgust he bore to her. In fine, he formed a project of dissolving his marriage with her, and to espouse Anne of Boulen, with whom he was excessively enamoured; and was confirmed in this design, by Wolsey, archbishop of York. This archbishop, who was the son of a butcher, by the power and flexibility of his genius, had gained such an ascendant over Henry, that he brought the king to comply with his will in every the most trifling circumstance. He had raised him to the dignity of cardinal, the archbishoprick of York, and made him his prime minister.

This ambitious prelate not contented with these dignities, aspired to the papacy, and entertained great hopes of obtaining it. Charles the Vth, then emperor, having occasion for the assistance of England against France, promised him his interest; but Wolsey perceiving that two popes died, and no mention had been made of him, imagined himself the dupe of his confidence, and resolved on revenge. He began by insinuating to Henry, that it was his interest to join with France against the emperor, who aspired after universal monarchy, and was advancing thereto with large strides; and when he had succeeded in that point, he attacked Charles in a  
more

more sensible part, by persuading his master to divorce the aunt of Charles the fifth. Henry finding himself authorized in the divorce, by a cardinal, hoped to obtain the permission of the pope : but he deceived himself. Clement VII. who then filled the papal chair, would not lend his aid in an affair which would infallibly bring a disgrace on all Christendom. Henry enraged at his refusal, swore an eternal divorce from the holy see, unless the pope would authorize that of his wife. These menaces were incapable of inducing the pope to deviate from his duty. Henry in revenge for this refusal, which he considered as an outrageous insult, declared that he would no longer acknowledge the pope as head of the church ; and causing Cranmer archbishop of Canterbury, to pronounce the sentence of his divorce, he publicly married Anne Bullen, whom he had espoused in secret before. The pope informed of these proceedings of Henry, threatened him with excommunication unless he within a limited time acknowledged his fault ; but Henry remained fixed in his resolution, and the pope's menaces were fruitless. Even the excommunication which he pronounced against the kingdom, served only to enflame matters. Henry assembled a parliament, who passed a law by which the English were freed from that submission which all the



faithful owe to the holy see; \* and by which the very name of the pope was prescribed the kingdom, and the king was declared head of the English church.

The people in general yielded obedience to these strange laws, and Henry had the terrible satisfaction to see the English, hitherto not very tractable, submit to his will. There were however, many who had so much regard for religion as to sacrifice the favour of the prince to their duty; but these being regarded as rebels who ought to be sacrificed, were all put to death; and the number of these martyrs was great enough to make Henry considered as a cruel and bloody-minded prince.

This revolution is to be met with in so many historians, that I thought it needless to dwell longer upon it.

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\* The reader must remember that this is written by a member of the church of Rome.



*A grand*



*A grand Vizier is assassinated at Constantinople, and the Turkish empire agitated by violent troubles, on account of disbanding a Soldier.*

**H**ISTORY represents Mahomet Bassa as a great warrior, and an able politician. The ferocity which seems natural to those of his nation, did not obscure his virtues ; he was affable and humane ; a lover of mankind, and exercised his power solely to the promoting their happiness. This fame was not supported by an illustrious birth, which is ever burthensome to those who know not how to sustain it with suitable splendor. His merit, a title more substantial than a list of ancestors, had raised him from one dignity after another, to the second place in the state, and established him therein. He was a soldier under Selim I. Minister to Soliman II. to Selim II. and to Amurath II. which is a proof that it is necessary to know how to obey in order to command well.

This great man, ever occupied with the care of the state, during peace prevented the calamities of war. By a prudent œconomy he filled

his master's coffers, and was always prepared to satisfy any pressing demands. Amurath II. was obliged to sustain a long war against the Persians; his vizier furnished him with every thing necessary, without oppressing the people. This war being wisely conducted, was happily terminated. The vizier, then according to his usual custom, had recourse to œconomy to repair the exorbitant expences which the exigencies of the state had occasioned: He disbanded many of the soldiers, and reduced the pay \* of the rest to it's former standard. One of the disbanded soldiers having nothing to subsist on, and unwilling to accustom himself to labour, commenced dervice, or mahometan Monk; and being according to the statutes of his order, obliged to beg of the people passing along, he fixed himself in those places through which he knew the vizier was obliged to pass, and demanded alms of him. As the vizier was naturally charitable, he every time gave him a handsome sum. The dervice insensibly accustomed himself to go to the minister's palace, and the slaves having seen him often there, suffered him to go in. By frequently resorting thither, he presently became acquainted with the avenues leading to and from the palace.

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\* It is customary in Turkey to augment the pay of the troops in time of war.



One court day when the guards were placed at the doors, with orders not to admit any but persons of distinction, the dervise presented himself with an air of business ; and finding that he could not be admitted, went through a private door to the apartment where the vizier was giving audience.

On coming into his presence he presented him with a paper, which Mahomet Bassa supposing to be a petition for money, pulled up his robe in order to take out his purse, when the dervise drew a poignard which was concealed under his gown, and stabbed the vizier, who finding himself stuck, cried out and rose up, in order to seize the villain ; but he fell down backwards and expired immediately.

The dervise endeavoured to escape through the crowd ; but one of the guards coming into the apartment, on hearing the bassa's cry, seized him ; when being carryed before sultan Amurath, he ordered him to be put to the torture, in order to discover his accomplices ; but he refusing to confess any thing, was sentenced to be flayed. Amurath, who loved the vizier, bewailed his loss with tears of blood. All the dervices of Constantinople were put to death, as were all those who were suspected to have been enemies to the vizier ; among whom were some

of the principal nobility of the state, whom jealousy had rendered foes to this great man.



*The beauty of a lady, occasions several Hugonots who were conducting to prison, to be set at liberty, and no person dared to pursue them into the Limosin, about the year 1757.*

**M**ADELINE de Senetaire, widow of Gui de St. Exuperi, retired after the death of her husband, to the castle of Miraumont, where she determined to pass the rest of her days in widowhood. She was not one of those women who by an affected external decorum endeavoured to conceal the irregularities of their private life; but, ignorant of the artifices of vice, she only used that circumspection which virtue dictates; and received the respectful homage of many of the young nobility, whom her beauty attracted to her.

There were one day several of them with her at the castle of Miraumont, when she saw Mental, the king's lieutenant of Limosin, who at the head of some cavalry, was conducting several Limosins to prison, only because they were suspected to

to be Hugonots. Handsome women are generally compassionate: Madeline de Senetaire, could not see without tender concern, these unfortunate people dragged to prison. The more she viewed them, the more her compassion encreased; in-  
 somuch that she conceived an ardent desire to relieve them; and ruminating some time on the means to effect their release, she turned towards the young noblemen who were with her, and said, “ You complain that I never give you an  
 “ opportunity of proving the sincerity of your  
 “ desire to serve me: I will now afford you the  
 “ wished-for satisfaction, you must go with me  
 “ to the deliverance of those unfortunate people,  
 “ whom Mental hath loaded with chains, and  
 “ is conducting to prison; they are men; let  
 “ us consider what they suffer, not what they  
 “ believe.”

Frenchmen, when excited to the combat by a fine woman, take arms without a moment's deliberation. The beautiful widow dressed like an amazon, put herself at their head, lead them against Mental, and dispersing his troops, put them to flight, and set the prisoners free. The king's lieutenant enraged that a woman should oblige him to abandon his prey, assembled one thousand seven hundred men, came at their head



to ravage the country, and besieged the castle of Miramont. The Amazonian lady sallied out with her forces, whom love rendered invincible, and falling upon Mental, he was again defeated, notwithstanding the superiority of his numbers. He now sought for shelter in a neighbouring castle, but before he could reach thither, he received a shot, which brought him from his horse. He was taken up and carried to a house adjacent, where he expired in a few hours after. Henry III. being informed of what had passed at the castle of Miraumont, gave orders to several officers to go thither with troops, and lay siege to it, and raze it to the ground when taken. This news spreading throughout the province where Madeline de Senetaire was greatly respected on account of her birth and virtues; all the gentlemen considered it as their duty to assist her who was the ornament of the age; and accordingly made her a tender of their services. Those who had orders to attack her, perceiving that their efforts would be fruitless, were afraid even to appear in the province.

The above fact I met with in some memoirs which fell into my hands.



*The respect which a citizen of Genoa shewed to a woman whom misfortunes had reduced to despair, occasions the republics of Venice and Genoa, after a long and bloody war, to make peace.*

A CONTINUAL rivalry subsisting between Genoa and Venice, kept up a constant war between them. The mutual calamities which the citizens of these two republics derived from each other, served only to enflame them the more. Every private person had the injuries done to a father or a friend to revenge, and thus one evil was ever productive of another.

Always under arms, always very, always irritated, the Genoese and Venetians were ever fighting. In vain the more sagacious of each party represented that peace alone could repair their misfortunes, and that a state of hostility served only to multiply them : But what human prudence could not accomplish, was effected through accident, by an event quite foreign to the then present conjunctures.

One of the most wealthy citizens of Genoa, named Luchio Vivaldo, was distractedly in love with a young woman, extremely beautiful ; he practised every art to obtain the gratification of his desires, such as vows, presents, and promises ; but her virtue defeated all his attempts.

Not having been born to pomp and luxury, she was content with the necessaries of life ; all her happiness centered in being able to supply the wants of her children, and to please her husband, by whose sole labour the family subsisted. This woman thus satisfied with a happy mediocrity, passed her days in tranquility, a stranger to remorse. But her happiness was not of long duration : Her husband died ; and after having sold her cloaths and furniture for subsistence, she had no resource remaining, nor any other prospect than that of starving ; but what completed her misery was the seeing her children perishing too. What a dreadful situation this, for a tender mother ! to whom could she apply for relief ; to whom relate her woeful tale ? Her relations were poor as well as herself ; and she had no friends. Her misfortunes were pressing, and instant relief was necessary. The cries which want wrung from her children every moment, peirced her to the heart. At length paternal tenderness exacted  
from



from her what neither presents, nor the prospect of wealth had been able to move her too: She went to Luchio Vivaldo, with her eyes swollen with tears, and thus addressed him: “ Heaven by  
 “ depriving me of my husband, has plunged me  
 “ into the most dreadful misery; without money,  
 “ without friends, without relations, without  
 “ any resource, I am reduced to the necessity of  
 “ dying with hunger; and this I could endure  
 “ with patience if my children were not to  
 “ share my unhappy fate; I offer myself a  
 “ sacrifice for their sakes: You have professed  
 “ love for me; save them.” On finishing these words she fell at his feet.

Vivaldo behaved with the utmost generosity; he raised her from the ground, wiped away her tears, and promised her all the assistance she wanted: He told her that he respected her, and would not take any advantage of her misfortunes. And fearing lest he should not be able to conquer his passion for her, he resolved not to see her more; but gave orders to his wife to supply her with every thing necessary for herself and her children. This was doubtless an effort of generosity, far superior to those boasted of, as done in similar circumstances, by Alexander, Scipio, and Turenne; because these heroes were not in love with the object.

An action of this kind cou'd not remain buried in silence: It soon became public. Great numbers went to see Vivaldo, and to render him the tribute of praise. This prudent man took the opportunity of the esteem he had acquired among his fellow citizens, to engage them to consent to a peace. They paid attention to him, and agreed to offer terms of accommodation to the Venetians; which the latter wisely accepted, and the treaty was reciprocally signed by both parties.



*HENRY IV. of France lost the fruits of the victory at Coutras, because he could not suppress the desire he had of going after the battle, to visit the countess of Guiche, with whom he was greatly in love.*

**H**ENRY IV. the model of kings, was brought up from his infancy in troubles and misfortunes. At the age of fourteen he bore arms, and sustained the fatigues of war; and was exposed to the greatest dangers at the battle of

of Moncontour. On his return to Paris he saw his friends assassinated around him, and remained three years a state prisoner. When released from confinement he endured hunger, thirst, and new inquietudes continually. All the fury of the Roman Catholics against the Lutherans fell on him ; and he escaped their pursuits merely by his resolution, prudence, and invincible courage.

Five thousand men whom he had rendered courageous by his example, planted themselves about his person, to defend him from the attacks levelled immediately at him. The duke de Joyeuse, at the head of eight thousand men went in quest of him. Henry, too heroic to fly, firmly stood his ground, viewed with contempt the enemy drawing up in order of battle, and opposing valour to superiority of numbers, he rushed into the midst of a shower of darts which were aimed at him, overthrew all before him, and made a passage for the main body of his troops into the army of the enemy. Every thing gave way to the prowess of Henry and his soldiers. The duke de Joyeuse in vain endeavoured to rally his dismayed forces ; he perished in the fruitless effort. Some of his men who had escaped the sword of the conquerors betook themselves to flight, and by the terror of their countenances, proclaimed  
the



the victory of Henry in all the places they passed through. This prince, however had the weakness common to almost all heroes; he loved women to such a degree as to forget when with them, his interest and his glory.

After the victory of Coutras, he could not suppress the desire of appearing victorious before the fair countess of Guiche, and to pay her the homage of his laurels. So that instead of pursuing a terrified enemy, and going to meet the Swiss and German troops who were in march to join him, he dismissed his army, went where love called him, and thereby gave time to the duke of Guise to levy an army, with which he defeated the Swisses and Germans at Haneau, and thereby restored the confidence of the roman catholic party.

Cæsar after the battle of Pharsalia, neglected his interest and his glory by staying with Cleopatra. He gave his enemies time to resume their courage and strengthen their forces.

Great men have the same passions, the same weaknesses, and are guilty of the same errors.



*The marshal d'Ancre complaining that M. de Luines, who occupied an apartment in the Louvre over his, made too much noise, and wanting him to remove elsewhere, M. de Luines was so provoked with the Marshal, that he destroyed both him and his wife.*

CONCINI, the son of a notary of Florence, and husband to Eleonore Galigai, daughter of a joiner in the same city, gained such an ascendant over Mary de Medicis, to whom his wife was foster-sister, that he regulated her affections, averfions, and desires according to his own will. In vain Henry IV. endeavoured to persuade his wife to send Concini away, who by his wicked counfels occasioned divisions in the royal family. The intreaties of the king served only to encrease the affections of Mary for the Florentine, who every day invented new methods of prejudicing the queen against her royal consort. Henry, however, carried his complaisance so far, as not to exercise his authority in removing from  
court

court this dangerous Italian, who was styled the marquis d'Ancre.

The hand of a parricide deprived France of this great king; and Mary of Medicis was declared regent of the kingdom, during the minority of Lewis XIII. Concini, now saw himself master of the state. He was made a marshal of France without having seen the army, and minister without knowing the laws of the kingdom. Honours and dignities rendered him insolent, which is usual with those who from low birth are raised to grandeur. He treated even princes and dukes with haughtiness. Discontent united all the nobility of the state against him; but the queen's favour secured him from their resentment; and all their efforts to humble him were ineffectual. But what is astonishing is, that this man who had withstood the most violent attacks, was demolished by one who appeared incapable of doing him the least prejudice. This was Charles Albert de Luines, a gentleman of the country of Avignon, who was introduced to a familiarity with Louis XIII. by breaking wariangles to catch sparrows. The marshal d'Ancre in order to make him his creature had given him the government of Amboise, and an apartment in the louvre over his own: But the



the means he had used to make him a friend contributed only to make him an enemy. Albert de Luines who ought to have had a regard for his benefactor, frequently interrupted him in his business, and disturbed his sleep by the noise which he made over his head. The marshal having complained to him many times, but in vain, at length threatened to make him quit his apartment at the louvre. Albert de Luines, affronted at this menace, resolved on the destruction of the marshal : To effect which, he began with insinuating to the young monarch when he was one day amusing himself with his wariangles, that being upwards of sixteen years of age, he was capable of taking the reins of government into his own hands, and that he ought to shake off the yoke which his mother and Concini had imposed on him. The young king who was disgusted at the severity with which the queen and the minister treated him, relished this advice, and discovered that he was quite disposed to follow it. De Luines perceiving that he lent a favourable ear the first time, returned to the charge, and at length he prevailed on Louis XIII. to consent that the marshal d'Ancre should be put to death. Vitri, captain of the guards, being charged with this cruel business, he shot Concini, with a pistol, in the louvre. Immediately

Immediately the guards were taken from the queen regent, and she was kept prisoner in her apartment, and afterwards exiled to Blois. The body of the marshal d' Ancre was buried under the gate of St. Germain l' Auxerrois. But the populace went thither dug it up, and dragged it about the streets ; and it is said, that one man was savage enough to tear out his heart and eat it. Every country has produced inhuman monsters.

But to the disgrace of humanity, this fury was not confined to the mob merely, persons of distinction were also accomplices in this shocking treatment. A commission was sent to the parliament to condemn the memory of the marshal, and to judge his wife. All her crime was the being the queen's favourite. She was asked what charm she had used to bewitch the queen.

The woman, provoked at this unreasonable question, answered : " My witchcraft was no other than the power which sensible minds have over those who are weak." This answer is now admired, though at that time it was considered as the offspring of effrontery. The marchioness was condemned as being guilty of witchcraft, judaism, and malversations. This sentence seems rather a proof of her innocence. She was, however, burnt at the Greve.

*The*



*The romantic amours of the duke of  
Buckingham, occasion a religious war,  
and the taking of Rochelle.*

AT the beginning of the seventeenth century, three ministers of state were masters of the destiny of Europe. Cardinal de Richlieu, in France; the count duke de Olivares, in Spain; and the duke of Buckingham, in England. All three were disliked both by the nobility and the common people; and all the three were different in their character and their passions.

Cardinal de Richelieu, was lively, proud, and sanguinary, but of incredible activity; he foresaw all the plots which were formed against him, preserved his station in the ministry, and had the ascendant over the other ministers. The count duke de Olivares, was reserved, mild, tranquil, and circumspect even to dilatoriness. He did not foresee misfortunes, and was overwhelmed by them. The duke of Buckingham, who was the handsomest man of his time, behaved himself more like a favourite than a minister

He



He did not govern Charles I. by intrigues, but by the dominion he had over his mind. He knew how to render himself beloved by those whom he chose for his associates; but was insupportable to all who had not talents to amuse him: To the former he was affable, officious, and generous; to the latter haughty and imperious. He thought himself capable of every thing, because he had experience in nothing. The beauty of his person, his generosity and magnificence, rendered him agreeable to the women; he had seduced many, and imagined none could resist him. In confidence of which, he attacked all who pleased him, without regard to their rank or their virtue.

Like the heroes of romance, he went into foreign countries in search of adventures. It was doubtless with this view that he engaged Charles I. then prince of Wales, to go with him to Spain, to demand the Infanta in marriage: Where the duke, more taken up with the prosecution of his own gallantries, than with the affairs of his master, attacks the dutchess of Olivares, wife of the prime minister of Spain, and by this indiscretion broke off the marriage of the prince; who then directed his views towards France, and Henrietta, sister of Louis XIII. was solicited. The  
friendship

friendship of the prince of Wales for Buckingham, was a veil which enveloped all the faults of this favourite, and concealed them from the eyes of the prince ; who no sooner ascended the throne, than he placed his sole confidence in him, and sent him to France to complete his marriage with Henrietta. The duke whose audacity led him from one imprudence to another, had like to have put an end to this match likewise, by the most indiscreet of all indiscretions. He had the impudence to make a declaration of love to queen Ann, of Austria. The queen, who, with unshaken virtue, possessed a soul worthy of her rank, disdained to shew her resentment at the temerity of the duke : But he was at length obliged to quit the court of France, and conduct Henrietta to England, leaving behind him the character of an agreeable courtier, but a bad negociator. His passion for the afore-mentioned queen Ann, still occupied his thoughts, on his arrival at London. He thought she loved him, because he had had the assurance to tell her he was enamoured of her. And in order to be near her person, he undertook a second voyage to France, under pretence of entering into a treaty against Spain ; but no attention was paid to him ; he was even refused the permission to make his overtures.

The

The duke of Buckingham piqued at this refusal, entered into a secret correspondence with the Hugonots, whom he spirited up with the hopes of procuring them powerful succours from England. Rochelle was the rendezvous of the Hugonots; the Rochellers took up arms; the duke of Buckingham landed at the isle of Rhé with seven thousand men. The Hugonots party became formidable, all France was struck with a panic, and Rochelle was on the point of being separated from that kingdom for ever. Cardinal Richlieu, who never appeared with so great lustre as in the most imminent dangers, by an admirable presence of mind, and that vigilance which is common to heroes, was attentive to every thing at the same instant of time; and put a period to those evils which menaced the state. Ships were immediately got ready, troops under the command of the most able generals, were sent against Rochelle, and a numerous artillery followed them. Advantage was instantly taken of the hatred which the duke de Olivares bore to the English; and troops and ships were also obtained of him: The duke of Buckingham was defeated in the isle of Rhé, and forced to return to England, with the broken remains of his army, covered with disgrace. The cardinal went in person



person to command at the siege of Rochelle. He acted as general; his courage and genius supplying the place of experience. The troops continued on duty; and designs were formed for shutting out of the port any English succours which might be sent, and to secure the mastery of the sea. The cardinal having Quintius Curtius at hand, and reading the description of Alexander's rampart before Tyre, caused one to be made before Rochelle, about four thousand seven hundred feet long. Fortune seconded this enterprize, for the duke of Buckingham being just ready to sail from England with a considerable fleet, was assassinated by an Irishman, and the fleet not appearing before Rochelle, till the rampart was finished, could not penetrate it, and the place was obliged to be given up, notwithstanding all the efforts of the English to relieve it.

The glory of the house of Richlieu, brought disgrace on England.



*A pair*

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A pair of gloves being refused to queen ANNE of England, and a bason of water being spilt on the robe of one of her favourites, occasions the peace of Utrecht.

IT is well known that Charles II. of Spain, was a prince equally weak in body and mind, inasmuch as he was ignorant both of the extent and force of his kingdoms.

A continual languor indicated his approaching dissolution, and the powers of Europe held themselves in readiness to inherit his valuable possessions. Each pretended a right therein, and hoped to confirm their claims. Lewis XIV. and the emperor Leopold, were both grandsons of Phillip III. and both had married the daughters of Phillip IV. and their children stood in the same degree. The house of France had the right of seniority; but a renunciation of the crown of Spain, authenticated and ratified, seemed to leave all right to the house of the emperor, which was of the same blood with that of Spain, and with it likewise bore the name of Austria.

Charles

Charles II. always wavering, formed as many resolutions as he received counsels. At the solicitation of his mother, he made a will, declaring the son of the duke of Bavaria his successor to the crown of Spain: but, on the death of his mother, he cancelled that will, by the advice of Marianne de Bavaria Neubourgh, and left the succession to Charles the son of the emperor Leopold. Some time after, the archbishop of Toledo, the count de Montercy, and other grantees of Spain, being dissatisfied with the court of Vienna, advised Charles II. to appoint a grandson of Lewis XIV. for his heir. He yielded to their solicitations, and by a fresh will, bequeathed all his estates to the duke of Anjou. He died without receiving any other advice on this head, and without making any other testament. What a contrast in events! Spain thought formerly to overthrow France, and now France gives monarchs to Spain.

The powers of Europe were astonished at this news, but soon recovering from their surprize, they resolved on using their utmost efforts to reduce the power of the house of Bourbon. England, Germany, Denmark, and Holland, entered into a league, which was signed at the Hague. Lewis XIV. being accustomed to war against these

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potentates,

potentates, was not much alarmed at their union, and sent his grandson to Madrid, where he was proclaimed king.

The emperor Leopold, to give weight to his pretensions, began the war in Italy, whither he sent prince Eugene at the head of thirteen thousand men. This able commander, in spite of the opposition of French and Piedmontese troops, penetrated into the Bressau. He extended his conquests with incredible rapidity, when the duke de Vendome taking the command of the French army, stopped his progress. These great men displayed their extraordinary talents in the art of war; such as mutual valour, impetuous attacks, obstinate resistance, surprizes artfully concerted, prudent precautions, judicious marches, and well-timed and bloody battles, where each party claimed the victory without having gained any advantage: but prince Eugene being obliged to quit the army to go and assist at a council at Vienna, the duke de Vendome derived great advantages from his absence. In vain the emperor drew to his party the duke of Savoy and the king of Portugal; these two powers, could not restore him to the favour of fortune who had now turned to the side of the Bourbons. The marquis de Villars defeated the prince of Baden,

at

at Friedlingen, was proclaimed marshal of France, on the field of battle, and Lewis XIV. confirmed what the voice of the soldiers had given him. Soon after, the new marshal again defeated the Imperalists at Hochstet. The duke of Burgundy, having under him the marshal de Tallard, and de Vauban, gained some victories in the low countries. France in short triumphed every where.

The duke of Bavaria, who was of the party of Lewis XIV. together with the marshal de Marfin, made a proper use of the victories gained by Villars, who was imprudently ordered to quit the army, to go and appease the troubles of the Cevennes. The French and Bavarians over-run the country beyond the Danube; they sent out parties as far as Austria; Vienna trembled. Prince Eugene, informed of the danger which menaced the emperor, went to take the command of the armies in Germany. Marlborough with ten thousand English infantry, and twenty-three squadrons of horse, hastened his march, and arrived near Donavert, opposite to the lines of the elector of Bavaria. He defeated the French and Bavarian armies, took Donavert, passed the Danube, and laid Bavaria under contribution; marshal Tallard, with a corps of thirty thousand men, joined the defeated army, in order to at-

tack Marlborough: and prince Eugene arrived in due time to the assistance of the English. The French army consisted of near sixty thousand effective men, that of the allies to fifty-two thousand. The battle was fought at Hochstet. The French army was almost totally destroyed, and marshal Tallard made prisoner, with a great number of general officers; the elector of Bavaria escaped to Brussels. The allies having a clear course, an uninterrupted communication from the Danube to the Rhine, entered Alsace. France in the greatest consternation, made her utmost efforts to repair so considerable a loss. The remains of her vanquished army were collected together, the garrisons were exhausted, the militia were ordered to march, she borrowed money, and recalled marshal Villars.

Fortune seemed to have chosen this time for abandoning France; a French fleet, damaged by a storm, was attacked and taken by the English, who conquered the kingdom of Valencia, and Catalonia, for the arch-duke Charles of Austria, who went with them into Spain. The battle of Ramillies reduced France to the last extremity; that of Turin occasioned the French to lose all the advantages they had gained in Italy.

France

France seemed now to be on the brink of ruin, and Lewis XIV. who had formerly made all Europe tremble, could not help being in a panic himself. He was hard pressed on all sides, both by sea and land. His grandson Philip V. being without resources in Spain, was forced to abandon the crown to his competitor, who was every where victorious.

A severe winter, completed the desolation of France: almost all the trees were frozen, there was no prospect of a harvest; she had no magazines, no ships, nor could she procure corn from other countries. France thus distressed, seemed just sinking under her weight of misery.

In this wretched situation, Lewis XIV. immediately sent to sue for peace to the Dutch, whom he had formerly humbled. The president Rouillé was chosen for this negociation. The magistrates of Holland received him with haughtiness, and spoke to him in the style of conquerors, who would dictate their own terms. The king of France, hoping to gain by entreaties what they refused to the president Rouillé, sent the marquis de Torin Colbert, his prime minister, to Holland, who applied to the grand pensionary Heinsius, to prince Eugene, and to the duke of Marlborough; but all three were for the conti-

uation of war. * The prince thereby indulged his ambition and revenge; the duke his love of glory and of riches; the pensionary influenced by the two others, considered himself as a Spartiate humbling a Persian monarch. They proposed a truce, on condition that the king of France should join his enemies in order to drive his own grandson from Spain, in the space of two months; and by way of security for the performance thereof, he should begin by ceding to the Dutch, for ever, ten towns. It is very singular that three men, two of whom had formerly limited their ambition to the command of a regiment; and the third to the calculation of the produce of certain bales of merchandise, should give law to the most powerful monarch on earth, who was reduced to the necessity of becoming a suppliant to them.

When the marquis de Torci related this proposal to the king, he replied, "since I must make war, I chuse rather to do it against my enemies than my children." He raised an army of about seventy thousand men, and gave the command thereof to the marshal de Villars, who was looked on as the only support of France; but this brave general was wounded at Malplaquet, and the
French

* Voltaire's universal history, Tome VI.

French were defeated. The Enemy advancing gradually, destroyed all the barriers of France, and were preparing to penetrate into the interior part of the kingdom. Lewis XIV. reduced in a manner to despair, sued again for peace. He proposed to acknowledge the arch-duke, as king of Spain; not to furnish his grandson with any succours; to give up four places by way of hostage; to renounce the sovereignty of Alsace, to raze all the places from Bale to Phillipburgh; to fill up the port of Dunkirk, and to raze it's fortifications; and to leave to the States General, Lille, Tournay, Ypres, Ments, Conde, and Maubege. These offers were rejected with contempt. At length this monarch carried his humiliation to such a length, as to offer money for the dethroning of Phillip V. but this was not hearkened to. It was insisted on, that he should engage alone to drive his grandson from Spain in two months. During these negotiations the allied army was advancing into France, and Phillip V. being defeated by the arch-duke's forces, was obliged to give up his places to the enemy, who caused himself to be proclaimed there. Louis XIV. notwithstanding he was seventy-four years of age, proposed, it is said, to call the nobility of his kingdom together, to lead them to the enemy, and to die with them.

The moment of time which seemed destined for the destruction of France, and of the royal house, was that of it's re-establishment. To shake this monarchy required the efforts of all Europe united. An affair of jealousy, a female dispute, reinstated it in all it's glory. Queen Ann, of England, loved the dutchess of Marlborough to so great a degree, as to sacrifice even her own will to her's. The dutchess had the imprudence to abuse her influence; her caprices, nay her haughty airs tired the queen, who being accustomed to have a favourite, turned her eyes on lady Masham, her lady of the bed-chamber. The dutchess soon perceived it, and consulting rather the gratification of her own humour, than good policy, dared to attempt the revenging herself on the queen, and to mortify her. One day, by an affected negligence, she let fall a bason of water upon the gown of lady Masham in the presence of the queen, without condescending to express the least concern. Another time, she appeared at court in a pair of gloves of a new taste, and perceiving that they pleased the queen, she affected to shew them about to all the courtiers, without complimenting the queen with them, who was so piqued at her behaviour, that she resolved to break entirely with the

the dutchess ; and carried her resentment so far as to seek the means of depriving her husband the duke of Marlborough of the command of the armies. To accomplish this the more effectually, she resolved to make peace with France ; and gave the English to understand that they were in the wrong to ruin themselves for the house of Austria : and wrote with her own hand to Louis XIV. that she was disposed to hearken to propositions of peace. He quickly sent to a secret agent, with whom she stipulated the conditions of the treaty ; and when the duke of Marlborough returned to London after the campaign, he was deprived of his dignities. In vain prince Eugene passed over to England to espouse the interest of Marlborough : all the regard due to his rank and merit was paid him ; but he did not succeed in any of his demands with respect to the duke.

This prince, in hopes of gaining fresh laurels, returned alone to finish the war ; notwithstanding the retreat of the English, the allies had still forces sufficient to crush exhausted France ; but Marlborough was not with them ; and Villars commanded the French : the latter got the victory at Denain ; and the allies being thrown into a consternation, were obliged to accept of condition

ditions much less burthenfome to France than those which they had rejected with disdain a little while before. The duke of Anjou remained peaceable possessor of the kingdom of Spain, with the title of Phillip V. and Lille, Aire, Bethune, and Saint-Venant, were restored to France. The emperor refusing to enter into any negociation continued the war, received some fresh checks from the French under marshal Villars; and after having lost all the advantages he had gained, and shewn that the house of Austria, without other assistance was not able to oppose the house of Bourbon, he consented to a peace.



A blow with a cane being given by a German to a Genoese who was looking at the carriage of a mortar-piece, which was broken in one of the streets of Genoa, occasions the Austrians to be driven from that city, and the republic of Genoa to recover it's liberty.

THE death of Charles VI. the last prince of the house of Austria, was a signal which occasioned all Europe to take arms.

France

France caused the duke of Bavaria to be proclaimed emperor, with the name of Charles VII. and the remains of the house of Austria, attacked by France, Bavaria, Prussia, and Saxony, were threatened with total ruin. The queen of Hungary, abandoned by her allies, saw her enemies at the gates of Vienna. Her fortitude was her only resource; and the danger which menaced her, served but to shew her greatness. She spirited up George II. king of England, who gave her powerful assistance. Sardinia, Holland, and even Russia declared for her. Her misfortunes and her virtues gained her the hearts of the Hungarians, who had been always rebellious to her ancestors; they took up arms only in her defence. They opposed the French in Germany in Italy, and in Flanders. The French were worsted at sea, and their marine ruined. Lewis XV. having the same enemies to contend with as his great grand-father had, headed his troops, and was victorious.

The republic of Genoa who saw the war brought to their gates, put themselves under the protection of France; but the French having received many checks in Italy, were obliged to retire under Placentia. The king of Sardinia then entered the territories of the republic, and

levied heavy contributions. In vain the combined forces of France and Spain endeavoured to cover the state of Genoa, the army of the queen of Hungary, united with that of the king of Sardinia, forced them to retire. The Austrians under the command of the marquis de Botta, advanced towards Genoa, seized several posts, and among other, Bochetta, which had been always deemed impregnable.

The Genoese were thrown into such a consternation, that they could not even think of the means of defending themselves, and the fear of misfortunes precipitated them into misfortunes. They deputed four senators to go and demand, with submission, of the Austrian general what was his pleasure. He received them politely; and it was agreed that they should the next morning deliver up the gates of the city of Genoa to the queen's forces; that the garrison should be prisoners of war; that all the French, Spaniards, and Neopolitans, who were in the city or suburbs, should be given up to the Austrians, and likewise all the artillery and ammunition of war in the city; that the doge and six senators should in the space of a month repair to Vienna, and ask pardon of the queen for their past transgressions; and that they should immediately pay fifty thousand

thousand Genovines (which are about four hundred thousand French pounds) until the contributions should be settled. In execution of this treaty, general Nadaſti preſented himſelf before Genoa, at the head of the advanced guard of the Auſtrian army, the gates were ſurrendered to him, and the republic ſet about performing the other conditions, hard as they were.

If the Genoefe had taken advantage of the indiſcretion of the enemy, the Auſtrian army would have been deſtroyed. The latter was imprudently encamped at Porto Decimo, in the bed of the ſervia which was then dry. In the night between ten and eleven o'clock, much rain fell, which deſcending in torrents from the neighbouring eminencies, filled the bed of the river in an inſtant, and carrying all before it, men, tents, and baggage, put the whole army in confuſion. By this accident above one thouſand men periſhed; and if the Genoefe had attacked the Auſtrians at that juncture they might have deſtroyed every man of them. But the republic were in hopes that their ſubmiſſion and fidelity, would entitle them to ſome regard on the part of the Hungarians. But they were deceived; for the enemy thought of nothing but cruſhing them. They demanded a contribution of four hundred millions,
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of which one third was to be paid down, and the rest at the end of the Month. In vain the senate remonstrated; they were obliged to pay the first third part immediately; and the queen of Hungary wanted them to cloath her troops, and restore to her her Jewels, on which they had some years before advanced a considerable loan.

The Genoese, quite disconsolate, preferred their complaints to the Dutch and the English; but all in vain. They were considered as victims doomed to be sacrificed. The second payment of a third of the contribution of twenty-four millions was demanded.

The public resources were exhausted, the silver plate of the churches was melted for coining; and the property of private persons was forced from them. To the grievance of general contributions were added the vexations occasioned by the Austrian officers, and the depredations of the soldiery. The Genoese were in the most extreme distress, and none were affected by their misfortunes except the Pope; and he granted them a jubilee of fifteen days.

The queen being victorious in Italy, determined to carry the war into Provence, and commanded general Brown to march thither. The marquis de Botta had orders to transport the
artillery

artillery of Genoa to the army which was destined for the expedition against Provence; accordingly twelve of the largest pieces of cannon in the city with some mortars, began to be removed; the Genoese themselves being obliged to assist in drawing them. The fifth of December 1746. the carriages of one of the mortars which was drawing through a narrow street, broke, and the embarrassment which this accident occasioned having drawn together a number of people, an Austrian officer struck with his cane a Genoese who was dilatory in his labour. The republican exasperated at this outrage drew his knife and stabbed the officer in the side. This bold action awakened the courage of the Genoese: they assembled together, broke open the armourers' shops, demolished the gate of the arsenal, and of the powder magazines, and becoming soldiers through despair, they fell on the Austrians, made terrible havock among them, and drove the rest out of the city. The Peasants came to the relief of the citizens, and having joined them, drove the enemy entirely from the state of Genoa.

The Genoese celebrated with great rejoicings the recovery of their liberty: They conducted with great solemnity, through the principal streets

streets of the city, the mortar which had occasioned this revolution. The Austrian army destined for the expedition against Provence, marched to, and blocked up Genoa ; but France sent them succours. The duke de Richlieu saved the republic, and the senate erected a statue in honour of him.

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